







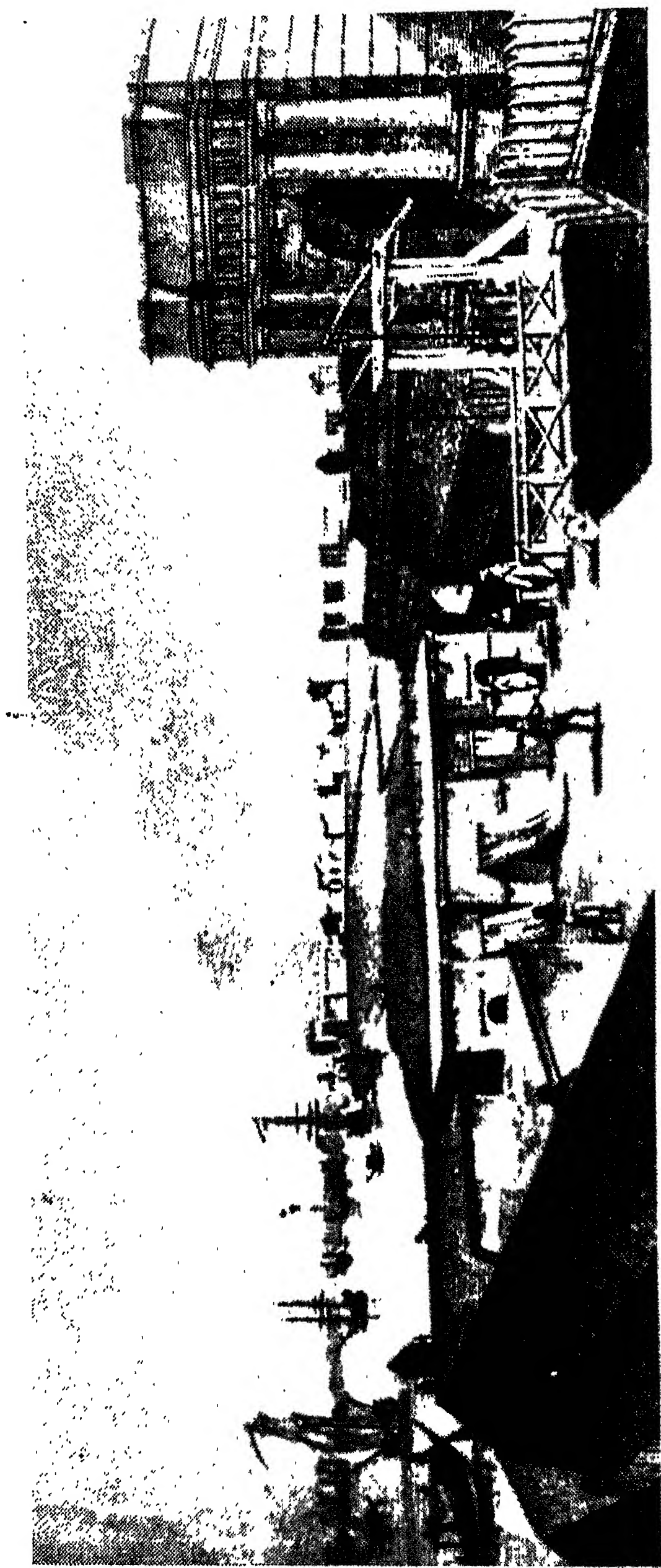


# **INDIAN RECORDS SERIES**

**GENERAL EDITOR: K. D. BHARGAVA**







A view of Calcutta taken from Fort William

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE

AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS  
RELATING THERETO

VOL. IX  
PUBLIC SERIES  
1782-5

GENERAL EDITOR: K. D. BHARGAVA

EDITED BY  
B. A. SALETORÉ, M.A., Ph.D. (London), D.Phil. (Geissen)  
*Professor of History, Karnataka University.*

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## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

Of late we have been trying to expedite the publication of volumes in the Fort William—India House Correspondence series under Scheme I of the publication programme. Volume I edited by Dr. K. K. Datta was brought out in April 1959 and Volume XIII was released for sale in June. The present volume is the third to be brought out in the course of the year.

The period covered by this volume is 1782-5 and it contains the relevant records of the late Public Department.

In bringing out this volume I have to express my gratitude to the Director General of Archaeology, Government of India, for supplying photographic copies of some of the illustrations printed in the volume. My thanks are also due to my colleagues in the Publications Division of the Department without whose ungrudging help and co-operation, it would not have been possible to bring out the volume in such a short time.

*National Archives of India,  
New Delhi,  
2 December 1959.*

K. D. BHARGAVA  
*Director of Archives,  
Government of India.*



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## PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL

1784-5

*Date of Letters  
Patent*

Rt. Hon. Baron Sydney (Later Viscount Sydney) ... 4 September 1784.

## CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

1782-85

<i>Year</i>		<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
1782	...	Gregory, Robert <sup>1</sup>	Fletcher Henry (later Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart.)
1783	...	Fletcher, Sir Henry <sup>2</sup>	Smith, Nathaniel
1784	...	Smith, Nathaniel	Devaynes, William
1785	...	Devaynes, William	Smith, Nathaniel.

## DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

1782-5

Atkinson, Richard	...	...	1784-5.
Baring, Francis	...	...	1779-82, 1784-7, 1789-92, 1791-7, 1799- 1802, 1804-7, 1809-10.
Bensley, William	...	...	October, 1781-4, 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-4, 1806-9.
Boddam, Charles	...	...	1769, 1772-5, 1777-80, 1782-4.
Boehm, Edmund	...	...	1784-7.
Booth, Benjamin	...	...	1767-70, 1772-3, 1775-8, 1780-3.
Bosanquet, Jacob	...	...	August, 1782-3, 1785-8, 1790-3, 1795-8, 1800-3, 1805-8, 1810-13, 1815-18, 1820-3, 1825-6.
Burgess, John Smith	...	...	1773-4, 1776-9, 1781-4, 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-3.
Cheap, Thomas	...	...	August, 1777-8, 1780-3, 1785-8, 1790-3.
Cuming, George	...	...	1764-7, 1769-72, December, 1773-77, 1779-82, 1785-7.

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2. Henry Fletcher being disqualified (resigned), the Court, appointed Nathaniel Smith Chairman from 26 November 1783. William Devaynes was appointed Deputy Chairman next day in place of Nathaniel Smith.

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Fitzhugh, Thomas	...	...	August, 1785, 1787-90, 1792-5, 1797-9.
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Hunter, John	...	...	1781-4, 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-2.
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Michie, John	...	...	1770-5, 1777-80, 1783-6, 1788.
Mills, Charles	...	...	August, 1785-6, 1788-91, 1793-6, 1798- 1801, 1803-6, 1808-11, 1813-4.
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## GOVERNORS GENERAL OF FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL

1782-5

Hastings, Warren	...	...	13 April 1772—8 February 1785.
			Appointed Governor of Bengal in 1772, Governor General in 1773, assumed office 20 October 1774.
Macpherson, John (later Sir John Macpherson, Bart)	...	...	8 February 1785—12 September 1786 Acting.

## MEMBERS OF BOARD, FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL

1782-5

Wheeler, Edward	...	...	11 December 1777—10 October 1784.
Coote, Lt-Gen. Sir Eyre—(Commander-in-Chief)	...	...	24 March 1779—26 April 1783.
Macpherson, John (after Sir John Macpherson, Bart.)	...	...	1 October 1781—8 February 1785 and 12 September 1786—17 January 1787, Acted as Governor General, 8 February 1785—12 September 1786.
Stables, John	...	...	11 November 1782—19 January 1787.
Stuart, Hon. Charles	...	...	28 February 1785—21 January 1793.
Sloper, Lt-Gen. Robert (Commander-in-Chief)	...	...	21 July 1785—12 September 1786.

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE

1782-85

Macartney, Rt. Hon. Baron	...	22 June 1781—8 June 1785.
Davidson, Alexander	...	14 June 1785—6 April 1786 Acting.

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

1782-5

Hornby, William	...	26 February 1771—1 January 1784.
Boddam, Rawson Hart	...	1 January 1784—9 January 1788.



# INTRODUCTION

THE letters edited in this volume cover the period extending from 1782 to 1785. Of these the year 1782 has rightly been styled as an *annus mirabilis*, a year of wonders, because it was remarkable from many points of view in the history of the world. In Europe it witnessed the repulse of the Franco-Spanish attack on Gibraltar; in England it saw the resignation of Lord North's ministry; in Ireland it hailed the establishment of Grattan's Parliament; in the West Indies it rejoiced at the great naval victory which Admiral Rodney won over the French fleet; and in India it marked the death of Haidar Ali.<sup>1</sup> The interest of the letters under review is further heightened by the fact that they deal with the last three years of the administration of Warren Hastings, and with the next year which marked the change over to that of Sir John Macpherson, who succeeded Warren Hastings as the Governor General of India.

The letters are not so much a catalogue of political events as a storehouse of information on the varied activities of the East India Company during the four years under review. They help us to recast to some extent the judgement which historians have passed on Warren Hastings, and to have a more correct idea of the internal administration of the Bengal Government which then controlled the destiny of the other Presidencies of India. They contain a wealth of detail pertaining to maritime and naval matters, judicial and military administration, education and health, agriculture and famine relief, which go to prove that the Government of Fort William was as mindful of the internal affairs of the Company as of the welfare of the millions of people whom fortune had by now placed under its aegis.

## *The Governor General and the Court of Directors*

The letters have a direct bearing on the position and powers of the Governor General and on the relationship of that high dignitary with the Court of Directors. It is well known that all was not well either among the Councillors at Fort William or among the Directors at London, although the relations between the two bodies continued to be, on the whole, cordial till about 1780. To add to the difficulties there were the defects in the Regulating Act of 1773, the uncertain position which the judiciary occupied at Calcutta, and the continued rivalry and ill-feeling between the Councils at Fort William and Fort St. George. Against this background appears the masterful

<sup>1</sup> Vincent Smith, *Oxford History of India* (2nd ed. Oxford, 1928), p. 535.

figure of Warren Hastings who steadfastly maintained his position, privileges, and powers, though in so doing he came into constant conflict with the Directors. If the year 1782 was a year of wonders for the world, it was a year of woe for the Governor General. In that year he advanced three lakhs of rupees to Chinnaji Bhonsle for securing his withdrawal from Bengal and some money to the Council for meeting the expenses of the Maratha War which was being fought at that time; but both transactions were disapproved by the Directors.<sup>2</sup> In the same year, the Court expressed its great astonishment and consternation at the Governor General's disobedience of the positive orders of the Court relating to the despatch of the annual consultations and revenue letters, which contained "many interesting transactions."<sup>3</sup> Next came the vexed question of the judiciary. The Governor General was admonished for appointing Sir Robert Chambers, Judge of the Supreme Court, as the President of the Chief Court at Chinsura, and ordered not to make in future any appointment to the judiciary either in that city or elsewhere.<sup>4</sup> The Governor General's appointments in the purely political field were likewise repugnant to the Directors. The agreement entered into between the Fort William Government and the Nawab of the Carnatic in March 1781, being neither necessary nor expedient, was ordered to be annulled in 1782. In the same year the Court disapproved of the appointments of Richard Joseph Sullivan and James Lucy Dighton as representatives of the Bengal Government at Madras and Bombay for negotiating with the neighbouring princes. These appointments were revoked as the Directors considered the Governors and Councils of the two Presidencies quite capable of carrying on the negotiations themselves. When the Governor General in 1782 wished to reduce the Raja of Tanjore to penury, he was severely reprimanded by the Court which, as we shall see in a later context, had guaranteed to the Raja and his family "the quiet possession of his country."<sup>5</sup> In the same year (1782) the Governor General was compelled by the Court to reinstate Francis Fowke as the Resident at Benares, and John Bristow as the Resident at Oudh.<sup>6</sup> In the military field, the Governor General was likewise restricted in the use of his powers of appointment and dismissal. He was ordered to appoint field officers only in consultation with the Commander in Chief (Sir Eyre Coote), and was not allowed to promote officers without the Court's approval.<sup>7</sup> The Governor General, however, disregarded these directives, for in 1785 the Court, referring to a previous order passed in 1782, reiterated its decision that the Governor General should not make any such appointment in future on any pretence whatsoever.<sup>8</sup> The Court never lost an opportunity of exercising the strictest vigilance over the actions of the Governor General. It rebuked him for the indifference he was

<sup>2</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, paras. 127-30.

<sup>3</sup> *Letter from Court*, 30 April 1782, para. 2.

<sup>4</sup> *Letter from Court*, 12 July 1782, para. 36.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 52, 60.

<sup>6</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1782, paras. 2-3.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 4-6.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 39.

<sup>9</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785, para. 9.



alleged to have shown to the "brave officers of the army and navy" who had been taken prisoners by Tipu Sultan; and it criticised and finally annulled all his grants of certificates, sanctions of increased salaries to junior members of Council, and appointments of surgeons in the Company's service. On one occasion the Court cancelled the appointments of twenty-four surgeons made by the Governor General in Council between 1 January 1782 and 10 March 1783, and itself made twenty-six new appointments.<sup>10</sup>

*The Governor General and the Madras Government*

The Governor General also came into conflict with the Government of Fort St. George. The latter in its despatches to the Court accused the former of withholding remittances of specie amounting to ten lakhs of rupees. But the Governor General explained in a detailed letter the exact circumstances which led to this action.<sup>11</sup> There were, of course, certain acts of indiscretion committed by the Government of Madras. For instance, when the news of the military convoys led by Colonel Pearse from the Carnatic with a huge treasure of 20,000 gold mohurs had to be kept secret, according to a confidential letter from the Governor General to the President of the Madras Government, the latter indiscreetly mentioned the news as a circumstance of notoriety to the Commander in Chief.<sup>12</sup>

Although there is sufficient ground for assuming that the Governor General did not unduly interfere in the administration of the Madras Government, as is proved by the cold reception which he gave in 1783 to the appeals which Major General Sir John Burgoyne made to him against the decision of the President and Council of Fort St. George,<sup>13</sup> yet the Government of Madras succeeded in making a successful case against the Governor General. This is evident from the peremptory manner in which the Court in 1784 decided to demarcate the respective powers of the two governments, compelling the Governor General to "avoid taking any step which might tend to diminish the weight of our subordinate governments with relation to the powers of India particularly connected with them."<sup>14</sup>

Notwithstanding this demarcation of authority, the relations between the two governments continued to be strained. Matters came to a head in 1785 when the Governor General in Council passed a resolution for Lord Macartney's suspension in consequence, as some suspected, of "His Lordship and the Select Committee declining to comply with the orders of the Bengal Government for opening a new negotiation with Tippoo Sultan, to procure from him a declaration in the

<sup>10</sup> *Letter from Court*, 16 March 1784 (General Letter), paras. 10-11.

<sup>11</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, paras. 114-22.

<sup>12</sup> *Letter to Court*, 3 February 1783, para. 16.

<sup>13</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, para. 166.

<sup>14</sup> *Letter from Court*, 9 December 1784, para. 31.

treaty respecting the Nabob of Arcot." The Court sided with the Governor of Madras against the Governor General, and directed that Lord Macartney be "admitted to the office of Governor General of Bengal in like manner as if no such suspension had taken place."<sup>15</sup> This further estranged the two governments. Lord Macartney, however, declined the Governor-Generalship in the same year. No reasons were given for the rejection of the offer, but Lord Macartney's explanation, as given in the letter dated 25 October 1785 from the Supreme Council, makes interesting reading.<sup>16</sup>

### *Warren Hastings*

The information furnished in the letters under review concerning Warren Hastings is both varied and interesting. Hastings has been condemned by modern historians for his incapacity to handle the revenue administration of Bengal.<sup>17</sup> Perhaps he did not show in revenue matters that remarkable aptitude for detail which Indian Civil Servants of later days have displayed. But if we are to judge him from the careful manner in which he tackled the problem of the Company's investment, as is revealed in his letter dated 13 November 1784, it is clear that he was certainly conscious of his duties as well as of his ability to handle the intricate problem of revenue.<sup>18</sup>

Whatever errors Warren Hastings might have committed in the discharge of his onerous duties, it is evident that the Court considered him as their most trusted servant, and never hesitated to praise him when his action deserved commendation. In judging him it is well to remember the "difficulties and embarrassments" which beset him, "the jarring interests that prevailed" in his own Council, the attitude of the Commander in Chief, who was always inclined to reckon himself as superior to the Governor General, and the opposition of the President of the Fort St. George Council who found many occasions for dissenting from the views and actions of the Governor General.<sup>19</sup> In these circumstances, Warren Hastings handled the affairs of the Bengal Government, which controlled the administration of India, with consummate skill, although in so doing he undoubtedly gave the impression of being an autocrat. Notwithstanding the fact that the Directors severely criticized his actions on many occasions, towards the end of his administration they gave expression to a sense of gratitude which deserves to be recorded. In their Resolution of 20 October 1784, they said:

"As peace and tranquillity are now perfectly established throughout India and this Court being sensible that this happy event has been

<sup>15</sup> *Letter from Court*, 11 April 1785 (General Letter), para. 60.

<sup>16</sup> *Letter to Court*, 25 October 1785, para. 18.

<sup>17</sup> *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, pp. 430-1.

<sup>18</sup> *Letter to Court*, 13 November 1784.

<sup>19</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 January 1784, para. 9.



principally owing to the very able and spirited exertions of our Governor General and of our Supreme Council ;

“Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Court be conveyed to Warren Hastings Esquire for his firm, unwearied, and successful endeavours in procuring the late peace with the several powers in India.

“Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Court be conveyed to the Supreme Council, for the assistance they have given in restoring our affairs in India to the happy situation of tranquillity”.

The General Court of Proprietors also had earlier praised his services in the war against Haidar. Their resolution dated 7 November 1783—over a year before Hastings retired—is a grateful acknowledgment of the efforts of Hastings and the other Members of the Council who had displayed “uncommon zeal, ability, and exertion in the management of the affairs of the East India Company during the late hostilities in India.” In this resolution, the Court requested Hastings “not to resign the station he now holds, until the tranquillity of our possessions in India shall be restored, and the arrangements necessary upon the re-establishment of peace shall have taken place.”<sup>20</sup>

The letter dated 22 February 1785 from the Members of the Supreme Council at Fort William in regard to Warren Hastings is a striking testimony to the great work which the latter performed, and is at the same time a proof of the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in the Supreme Council. As this letter rightly says, “few men possess the talents, the vigour of mind, or command of temper,” which Warren Hastings possessed, especially in a period when the utmost care and courage were needed for the preservation and stabilization of the English dominion in India. In the same letter we learn that on 8 February 1785, Warren Hastings despatched from sea his resignation to the Supreme Council, which the latter received on the 12th, on which date Mr. Macpherson was publicly proclaimed as the Governor General in Fort William and in the army centres, “according to the provisions of the 13th and 21st Acts of Parliament of the present reign.”<sup>21</sup>

### *Civil Administration*

In the sphere of civil administration, the letters enable us to form an estimate of the general policy of the Company towards the princes and the people, and of the means which the Government adopted to improve the tone of the administration particularly of the civil service and of the Public Works Department, and to solve some minor problems.

The general policy of the Directors towards the Indian princes is given in their letter of 25 January 1782. Referring to the success of

<sup>20</sup> Letter from Court, 9 December 1784, paras. 38-41.

<sup>21</sup> Letter to Court, 22 February 1785, paras. 8-9.

General Goddard against the Marathas, the Directors wrote: "We embrace the opportunity afforded by this favourable turn of affairs to inculcate the sentiments, so often communicated to you, that a safe and speedy peace with all Indian powers is our primary consideration. This must never be forgotten."<sup>22</sup> In another letter dated 12 July 1782 the Directors, while referring to the Rohilla chief, Faiz-ullah Khan, gave expression to their genuine feeling of goodwill to the Indian princes: "It is exceedingly proper that your Government (*i.e.*, the Bengal Government) should see that Fyzoola Khan fulfils his engagement with the Vizier, according to the treaty guaranteed by the Company; but we wish rather to be considered as the guardians of the honor and prosperity of the native powers of India, with whom we are in any degree connected, than as the instruments of oppression."<sup>23</sup> Again in 1784 they ordered the Governor General to adhere scrupulously to the "just and pacific system respecting the native princes of India which the late Act of Parliament has pointed out to us," warning him that "any deviation from it, in the conduct of our servants, will not fail to incur our highest displeasure."<sup>24</sup> They also ordered him to observe the 39th section of the Act which made provision for redressing any grievances that may exist amongst the rajas, *zamindars*, *palegars*, *talukdars*, and other landholders within the British territories in India.<sup>25</sup>

Both the Directors and the Government of Fort William were by no means indifferent to the welfare of the common people. The letters, indeed, are a running commentary on the anxiety which the Directors always felt in regard to the question of reorganizing the administration of their vast possessions in India. They encouraged the Government of Fort William in its efforts to promote the welfare of the common people and to reform the administration. For in their letter dated 10 September 1783, they refer not only to the ways in which their possessions can be held and governed with the greatest security and advantage to Britain but also to the means by which "the happiness of the native inhabitants may be best promoted."<sup>26</sup>

Measures were taken to maintain the dignity of the Company's representatives in India. The Directors established a unique principle which was to have a profound effect on the grandeur and stability of the British empire in India. While endorsing the sentence of suspension from the Company's service which the Governor General in Council had passed on John Bright for writing insulting letters to the Governor General, the Court declared: "We would have you make it known that we shall always consider any indignity offered to our Governor General, or to any of our Council, as an insult to ourselves and will invariably resent it accordingly."<sup>27</sup> This upheld the dignity of the administration, and made the Court of Directors as well as the Governor General in Council

<sup>22</sup> Letter from Court, 25 January 1782, para. 64.

<sup>23</sup> Letter from Court, 12 July 1782, para. 63.

<sup>24</sup> Letter from Court, 10 December 1784, para. 2.

<sup>25</sup> Letter from Court, 9 December 1784, paras. 33-4.

<sup>26</sup> Letter from Court, 10 September 1783, para. 24.

<sup>27</sup> Letter from Court, 12 July 1782, para. 20.

appear in the same light before all the servants of the Company and the general public. They also looked to the dignity and security of the subordinate governments, as is revealed in their letter dated 9 December 1784: "Whatever representations from the native powers so connected with our subordinate settlements, whatever propositions for future arrangements, and above all whatever complaints against the conduct of our Governments in those settlements are made to you, must be transmitted through those Governments alone; with them you are immediately to communicate on those subjects, and whatever steps you take in consequence you are to pay every attention to the honor and dignity of our servants placed by us in high situations. This is a line of conduct due to them, as well from the character which they derive from us as from the indispensable necessity of holding high in the eyes of the different powers of India, the weight and authority of every branch of the British Government."<sup>28</sup>

### *Civil Servants*

The number of civil servants did not exceed 100 or 120 in those early days. The letter of 25 October 1785 gives the increased number of 260.<sup>29</sup> There were special rules regarding the covenanted civil service of India. Only those regularly admitted into the Company's service, and those possessing the express authority of the Directors, could be entertained as civil servants; and the Governor General in Council was directed not to employ any one even though he might consider him fit.<sup>30</sup> The Directors had found that thirty persons, who were not covenanted civil servants, had been employed in the civil service. Employing such unlicensed persons meant not only additional expense but also supersession of the regular employees of the Company. Hence was felt the necessity of restricting the appointing powers of the Governor General in Council. The offices were divided into different classes according to their importance, the highest posts being given to senior servants of longest standing, though exceptions were permitted in cases of exceptional ability. But retention of unnecessary posts was prohibited even though held by persons who had rendered meritorious service.

Sons of the Directors were given preference at the time of appointment and appear to have been given precedence in rank over others appointed at the same time. So, in 1782 Richard Becher, then Mint Master at Calcutta,<sup>31</sup> represented to the Court of Directors that his eldest son Richard Becher and second son Robert Becher, appointed writer and cadet respectively on being nominated by him when he was a Director of the Company, had not been given precedence over others as was customary and as he had been assured would be done.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> *Letter from Court*, 9 December 1784, para. 33.

<sup>29</sup> *Letter to Court*, 25 October 1785, para. 41.

<sup>30</sup> *Letter from Court*, 15 January 1783 (Separate General Letter), para. 1.

<sup>31</sup> C. E. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

<sup>32</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 May 1782, para. 26.



If at this distance of time, we are able to construct a picture of the activities of the Government at Fort William, a good deal of the credit of recording faithfully almost every detail of occurrence should go to the small band of scribes, who were called writers. They formed a part of the covenanted civil service.<sup>33</sup> One of the reasons for employing so many writers was the difficulty of maintaining the voluminous official records and accounts.<sup>34</sup> This difficulty was heightened by the fact that six copies of every letter had to be prepared at Fort William. The writers were usually qualified men, although occasionally they have left signs of their orthographical lapses. The Bengal Government also employed temporary Indian writers, and the Directors approved of this practice, because "many articles of business can be performed by them equally well, and at infinitely less expence than by any European servants." They could for example be employed "in copying papers and other subordinate occupations." But the Court was against employing Indians to do the work which the regular European writers of the Company were expected to do as such a practice was "subversive of all order, and introductory to every species of idleness and dissipation in our settlements. The Directors also insisted that "confidential situations in general ought to be filled up by European servants, and accordingly a proper supply must always be kept up."<sup>36</sup>

Attempts made to solve the questions of vacancies, retirements, resignations and furloughs show that the Directors desired to stabilize the services. On the question of filling up a vacancy caused by the death of a civil servant, the Governor General in Council, according to a previous decision of the Directors, decided that appointments to all vacancies ought to be filled up immediately by the senior servants present without awaiting the arrival of new persons from England.<sup>35</sup> Resignations were permitted on grounds of ill health, and the necessary certificates were given to such officers as were obliged by ill health to resign for proceeding to England.

Leave rules were likewise framed with an eye to permanency as well as to efficiency. Persons who wished to proceed to England on leave because of ill health were required to produce an affidavit from three senior surgeons of the Presidency, and then to secure the permission of the Governor General in Council. For example, Judge John Perring of the *Adalat* at Mehsi secured such a certificate before proceeding to England in 1784.<sup>38</sup> The certificate had to be in the handwriting of the principal surgeon, and attested to upon oath by him and two other surgeons next in rank, before a magistrate, in the following form: "We, A., B., and C, Surgeons of ..., do hereby declare, on oath, that we are of opinion, it is absolutely necessary that Mr. D. should leave this country,

<sup>33</sup> Letter from Court, 12 July 1782, para 19.

<sup>34</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783, para. 38.

<sup>35</sup> Letter to Court, 10 December 1784, para. 4.

<sup>36</sup> Letter from Court, 21 September 1785 (Separate General Letter), paras. 13-4.

<sup>37</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, para. 31.

<sup>38</sup> Letter to Court, 17 January 1785, para. 17.

and go to Europe for the recovery of his health, occasioned by wounds, bilious or any other disorder." But persons permitted to go to Europe for the recovery of their health lost their rank and promotion to which they would have been entitled if they had continued to stay in India; and if permitted to resume their duties, they were to hold only that rank which they had held prior to their departure to Europe, except in the case of those whose ill health had been certified by the Governor General and upon oath by the three principal surgeons. In these their leave was restricted to only one year in England, unless an additional period of one year was specially granted to them by the Directors.<sup>39</sup>

As many military officers on return from leave preferred claims to vacancies as against junior officers who had continuous service to their credit, the Governor General in Council enacted that "every officer returning from England though he retain his original rank shall forfeit his title of preference to vacant commands, unless his period of actual service in India, deducting that of his absence from the date of his resignation till his return, but allowing 2 years' grace for such as have been at home for their health, shall be equal to that of the officers next in regular succession to those commands."<sup>40</sup>

Leave was likewise granted to the servants of the Company who wished to proceed to England on account of private affairs. Such of those who had good record of service prior to their departure to Europe were recommended by the Governor General for re-employment on their return to India.<sup>41</sup> These civil service rules are noteworthy in the sense that, unlike contemporary governments in India, the East India Company considered principles, and not persons, to be the guiding factors in matters of administration. It may be said without any exaggeration that such regulations pertaining to civil service were not a little responsible for consolidating the administration upon which the ultimate well-being of the people, the prosperity of the Company and the stability of the government depended.

### *Works of Public Utility*

Roads, draw-bridges, irrigation and harbour works—these were the main public works with which the Government was primarily concerned in those years. A road from Calcutta to Chunar is mentioned in the letters of 1782 and 1783. The Calcutta-Chunar road, which the Governor General had proposed, was estimated to cost at least two and a half lakhs of rupees; and the Governor General was censured by the Directors for having undertaken this huge enterprise without having "so much as mentioned the subject to us in any of your letters." For this and other reasons—the enormous amount of military expenditure, the scarcity of cash at the other Presidencies, the absolute necessity of every

<sup>39</sup> Letter from Court, 10 September 1783, paras. 13-4.

<sup>40</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, para. 48.

<sup>41</sup> Letter to Court, 22 February 1785, para. 19.

rupee being applied for the provision of an investment, and finally, the enormous gratuity of 50,000 *sikka* rupees which the Governor General had agreed to pay to the official who was to supervise its construction. The Directors censured this project, but sanctioned 10,000 rupees per annum for keeping the existing road in repair.<sup>42</sup>

But the Governor General was not perturbed by this censure of the Directors. In his usual courteous but spirited manner he wrote on 5 April 1783 that it was hard "that we should receive your censure for an act for which we did think ourselves entitled to your approbation." For, the normal distance from Calcutta to Chunar which was 600 miles would be reduced to exactly 398 miles by this new road; the difficulty of going over "the most impracticable parts of the western quarter of Bengal", through impassable woods, rocks and hills, would be solved; the total cost as given by Captain Rankin, who was to supervise its construction, would be only rupees 2,88,875 i.e. 725 *sikka* rupees per mile, which was cheaper than the cost of similar works in Europe.<sup>43</sup> This important road was finally constructed in 1785 and was tested by Major James Crawford, who repeatedly marched on it with his regiment and guns, and whose report on it was forwarded to the Directors.<sup>44</sup>

Concerning public works like *dobands*, *pulbands*, draw-bridges and harbour constructions, we have some details in the letters of 1782<sup>45</sup> and 1785.<sup>46</sup> In the affidavit made by John Bayne before the Honourable Mr. Justice Hyde on 16 August 1782, it is related that Bayne, after a careful consideration of the consequences resulting from the change in the course of the river in Burdwan, thought it necessary that certain *dobands*<sup>47</sup> were needed for cultivation purposes; and that he therefore advised Mr. Archibald Fraser to apply to the Governor General in Council for a contract to construct them.<sup>48</sup> These irrigation works were undertaken not directly by the Company but through contracts, which were sometimes also entered into by *zamindars*. Thus in 1785 the Directors agreed to the suggestion of the Governor General that the *pulbands*, or repairing of the embankments of rivers, might be done by the *zamindars* themselves, but ordered that the Governor General in Council was to take great care "lest by an ill judged parsimony, these embankments may be so much neglected as to endanger the cultivation of the lands"; and if the *zamindars* were to undertake the repairs, the Committee for *Pulbandi* must be very attentive, that they punctually perform that duty.<sup>49</sup> But the construction of draw-bridges to forts could not be entrusted to private enterprise. Therefore, when the draw-bridges of St. Georges Royal, and the water gateways in the New Fort at Calcutta,

<sup>42</sup> Letter from Court, 28 August 1782, paras. 22-5.

<sup>43</sup> Letter to Court, 5 April 1783 (General Letter), paras. 127-8.

<sup>44</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783 para. 153.

<sup>45</sup> Letter from Court, 25 January 1782, para. 156.

<sup>46</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, enclosures 3-5.

<sup>47</sup> *Dobands*—embankments built round the tanks.

<sup>48</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, enclosure 5.

<sup>49</sup> Letter from Court, 21 September 1785, para. 72.



fell into decay, the Chief Engineer made several representations to the Governor General in Council, as a result of which estimates were secured from the Chief Engineer and he was finally authorized to make the necessary repairs without exceeding the expenditure sanctioned by the Governor General.<sup>50</sup>

The construction of a new harbour in Calcutta as proposed by Mr. Benjamin Lacam seriously engaged the attention of the Directors and of the Governor General in Council in 1785. Mr. Lacam had been introduced to the Company by Lord Sydney, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.<sup>51</sup> The proposal submitted by Mr. Lacam was discussed at a Joint Committee of Correspondence and Shipping in London on 7 October 1785. Lacam's project was to build "a dock or docks and a harbour for ships." It was recommended by the Committee to the Directors who decided to grant him a lease, which was to be executed in India by the Governor General and Council under the Company's seal on such terms as would protect public interest, and at the same time secure to Lacam the support of the Government in executing the work. Lacam was to construct the harbour within ten years from the date of the execution of the lease.<sup>52</sup> According to the lease this harbour was to be "a careening harbour", capable of receiving His Majesty's and the Company's ships "to any extent of number and size", while the dry docks were for ships of all dimensions. The correspondence on this important subject shows the great anxiety and care which both the Directors and the Governor General in Council bestowed on public works.<sup>53</sup>

### *Corruption*

Embezzlement and corruption were two evils which the Governor General in Council as well as the Directors tried to eradicate. The cause of these evils seems to have been, as the Governor General said in his letter of 5 May 1781, that every one of the 252 covenanted servants, many of whom were the "sons of the first families in the kingdom of Great Britain", was aspiring "to the rapid acquisition of lacks and to return to pass the prime of their lives at home, as multitudes have done before them."<sup>54</sup> With this motto of amassing millions within a few years, it is not surprising that there should have been cases of embezzlement in both the Military and the Civil Departments. In 1782, Major Peter Grant was charged with defrauding the sepoy's under him of their pay, *batta* and other dues. He was therefore cashiered and sent home.<sup>55</sup> Some of the army officers were making large profits by selling spirituous liquors to the soldiers. The Directors as well as the Secretary for War were aware of this danger, which not only spread corruption among the

<sup>50</sup> *Letter to Court*, 1 August 1785, para. 49.

<sup>51</sup> Appendix 5 (c).

<sup>52</sup> Appendix 5 (b), (c).

<sup>53</sup> Appendix 5 (a), (e).

<sup>54</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785 (Separate General Letter), para. 6.

<sup>55</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1782, paras. 16-7.

officers but also bred indiscipline in the army, and destroyed the health of the soldiers. The Directors, therefore, took stern measures to eradicate this evil and the Governor General in Council were ordered to co-operate with General Sloper in the campaign against illicit sale of liquor.<sup>56</sup>

One of the reasons why officials became corrupt was the absence of sufficient scope for promotion in the civil service. Even persons with a long period of service were not sure of promotion because the number of higher posts was comparatively small. This was particularly the case in the Board of Trade where persons, often advanced in age, returning to the Company's service from leave had to wait for years for a vacancy to occur. This long waiting without any avowed means of subsistence naturally induced the servants to resort to corruption and embezzlement. To remove this evil, the Governor General made it a standing rule that all servants of the Company appointed to reversionary stations in the Board of Trade, should be allowed to draw the salaries to which they would be entitled had they been members of that Board, pending the commands of the Directors on this subject. The Governor General in Council adopted this course "conformable to strict justice and general practice", and as "necessary in good policy", though seemingly forbidden by the restrictive order of the Directors.<sup>57</sup>

### *Stationery*

A minor point in civil administration which may be mentioned here is that relating to the purchase and preservation of stationery. Rules were framed for the preservation of stationery against wet and damp. One half of the stationery which was to be sent to Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay was to be packed in "thin deal cases covered with copper sheets of 1 lb to the foot square, and so secured as to exclude all wet and damp, and these cases to be again enclosed in other cases of the usual thickness." On arrival in India, the stationery was to be immediately unpacked and the copper cases sold.<sup>58</sup> Since the quantity of stationery purchased through agents in Europe was inadequate, and the quality was of a very inferior nature, the Governor General requested that the persons entrusted with this work might be asked to examine carefully both the quantity and quality of stationery before it was despatched to India. The statistics of stationery consumption from 1781 till 1784 show the growing demand for it:

Year	Value of Stationery		
1781-1782	...	...	... Rs. 31,000
1782-1783	...	...	... Rs. 24,000
1783-1784	...	...	... Rs. 50,288-4-4 <sup>59</sup>

<sup>56</sup> *Letter from Court*, 10 December 1784, paras. 6-7.

<sup>57</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 February 1784, para. 11.

<sup>58</sup> *Letter from Court*, 27 January 1785, paras. 13-4.

<sup>59</sup> *Letter to Court*, 22 February 1785, para. 37.



*Batta*

It is interesting to note the steps taken by the Board of Trade to meet the problem of "*batta* or the loss arising from advances not being made in the specific coins locally required at our subordinate stations." The Court had decided in December 1778 that "when the Board of Trade finds it necessary to apply for advances of money in specific coins which cannot be obtained, it is our pleasure, that the loss of exchange on all such occasions, be carried to the Revenue, and not to the Commercial Department". This caused much inconvenience to the Company's servants as "the advances issued from the treasury, transported through a country infested by dacoits, after a very dangerous navigation," were exchanged "at Dacca into Arcot rupees, and from an intolerable collusion kept up among the shroffs at that place" this was of necessity done at their own prices. On receiving numerous representations from the factories of Dacca and Lakshmipur the Board of Trade finally referred the matter to the Governor General in Council and requested them to find a remedy. As a temporary measure the Board agreed to follow the earlier decision of the Court *i.e.* charging the loss to the Revenue Department, but suggested that either the "bills be granted us payable in the current coin of that station, to the service of which their contents are destined; or that our agents should be allowed to purchase such coins, and charged the contingent loss to the debit of the Company in their accounts; from whence in progression it may be ultimately carried to that of the Revenue Department", as ordered by the Court of Directors.<sup>60</sup>

*Economy in Administration*

Measures to effect economy in public expenditure received the attention of the Directors as well as of the Governor General in Council. As recommended by the Board of Inspection, the Governor General in Council in 1783 ordered the reduction of "every unnecessary branch of expence", which was to be done not so much by retrenchment as "by adopting a regular plan for the payment of all fixed and contingent charges." For this purpose the Governor General in Council directed, in order to enforce a rigid attention to the "general system of economy and to guard against contingencies of every kind, that all authorized charges be drawn in the form and order prescribed by us in the establishments as they are published." To execute this plan, the Governor General in Council ordered the examination of established and contingent charges by the Accountant General under the direction of the Board of Inspection. The duties of the Accountant General in this connection are then mentioned in detail.<sup>61</sup> But in 1785 a proposal seems to have emanated from the Governor General himself, guided, of course, by the Secret Department of Inspection, for reducing the established and contingent expenses of

<sup>60</sup> Appendix 1. *Letter from Board of Trade to the Governor General and Council*,

<sup>61</sup> 20 September 1783, paras. 1-2.

<sup>62</sup> *Letter to Court*, 5 April 1783, paras. 184-5.

the Bengal Government.<sup>62</sup> The Governor General seems to have recommended retrenchment in the civil establishment as early as 5 May 1781. In 1785 the Directors reminded the Governor General that he was to be strictly guided by the exigency of the public services, and was not to allow any department or office or salary which was not warranted by the real exigency of the service.<sup>63</sup>

Loans not recovered, balances due, defalcations, and large sums of money outstanding from contractors—these were some of the main items to which the Court drew the attention of the Governor General when they ordered him to effect a general economy in the administration on 8 July 1785. Loans given to Major Tolley, Commissioner of Police, huge balances to be recovered from the several Paymasters, many of whom had defalcated; large sums of money amounting to nearly twenty-eight lakhs of rupees due from the *aurangs* or contractors, and an irredeemable loan (given by the Governor General in Council without proper security) to the Chinese Jog Achen—these were other items about which the Directors were very anxious, because of the huge sums which were involved in these transactions.<sup>64</sup>

### *Justice and Security*

The claims of the English to the unstinted loyalty of the people were perhaps nowhere so prominently visible as in the field of justice about which the despatches contain valuable details. No doubt, the perfect security which the average man felt within the limits of the Company's possessions as contrasted with the perpetual insecurity which prevailed in the territories of the contemporary Indian Governments, was by itself a great factor which was responsible for the marked zeal with which the people flocked to the fortified settlements of the English at Calcutta, Madras and elsewhere. But what was more important than this sense of security was the sense of fairness and justice which the English, much more than any of their European contemporaries in India, showed in their dealings, not only with one another but also with the Indian peoples. This is evident, for instance, from the generous compensations paid to the Indian magistrates of Patna who had been unjustly imprisoned.<sup>65</sup> About these magistrates the Directors wrote in 1782, "when the late Act respecting the administration of justice in Bengal was agitated in the House of Commons, it was intended amongst other things, not only to release from prison, and indemnify the native magistrates and others therein named, but also to make provision for the future subsistence of Mir Burkut Ulla, and Gullum Muckdum in their former condition and situation, and to declare them Mahomedan Counsellors to the Court and Council at Patna, with all the privileges, profits, and emoluments thereto belonging." In consideration of their losses and long imprison-

<sup>62</sup> Letter to Court, 22 February 1785, para. 12.

<sup>63</sup> Letter from Court, 21 September 1785 (Separate General Letter), paras. 6-7.

<sup>64</sup> Letter from Court, 8 July 1785, paras. 43-5.

<sup>65</sup> Letter from Court, 1 January 1782.

ment, the Court decided to pay to each of them "severally, or to their order, out of the Company's treasury, the sum of five thousand pounds three months after demand." Bahadur Beg who had also been imprisoned was to receive two thousand pounds, "in three months after demand, without prejudice to any claim or remedy which he or his father, or next heir at law, might have in law or equity to any lands or goods whatsoever." A sum of five thousand pounds was to be paid to the child or children, if any, of the Magistrate of Patna, called the *Cadi*, or *Cauzi Saadi*, who died as he was under conveyance to prison, and to his widow, during her natural life, a pension or annuity equal to the salary of her late husband. If the *Qazi* had no children the Directors ordered that his widow and the nearest male relation should be given one thousand pounds each.<sup>66</sup> That the Directors were sincere in their motives is proved not only by the fact that they ordered the Governor General to carry out every detail of their behest, but also from the manner in which they drew the attention of the Governor General in 1783 to the several reports made by the Committee appointed by the House of Commons concerning the great question of the administration of justice in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, and in the East Indies in general.<sup>67</sup>

The impartial manner in which these cases of the Indian magistrates were dealt with, the freedom they were given to appeal against the decision of the Company to His Majesty in Council, the uncommonly liberal compensation which the Company gave to the magistrates and their relatives, and, finally, the sincere repentance which the Court of Directors expressed for having passed what ultimately appeared to be erroneous judgments—all these must have been in no small measure responsible for the unequivocal loyalty which the Indian people gave to the Government of Fort William.

For the same reasons the Directors severely condemned the Governor General's action in so unjustly imprisoning and deposing Raja Chait Singh of Benares. We learn from a letter from the Court dated 28 August 1782 that the Directors had ordered an immediate enquiry to be made into his case. The enquiry revealed that on the death of Shuja-ud-Daulah in 1775, the Governor General in Council had concluded a treaty with his successor by which the *Zamindari* of Benares with its dependencies was surrendered in perpetuity to the Company. The Governor General after consulting his colleagues had "proposed that the perpetual and independent possession of the zemindary of Benares and its dependencies be confirmed and guaranteed to Rajah Chetye Sing, and his heirs, for ever, subject only to the annual payment of the revenue hitherto paid to the late Vizier, amounting to Benares *sicca* rupees 23,71,656-12, that no other demand be made upon him either by the Nabob of Oude or your Government, [nor] any kind of authority or jurisdiction exercised, by either, within the dominions assigned him." The Governor General's observations on this proposal were to the effect that, since the Raja's territory was situated in a frontier province,

<sup>66</sup> Letter from Court, 1 January 1782, para. 1.

<sup>67</sup> Letter from Court, 10 September 1783, para. 24.



he should be made an ally of the Company; that, therefore, he should be freed from the bonds of vassalage; and that he should remain under the guarantee and protection of the Company. The Calcutta Council on 3 March 1775 agreed to the proposal of the Governor General that Raja Chait Singh should be subject only to the payment of his tribute, that he should give in monthly instalments a yearly revenue of *sikka* rupees 22,48,440, that he should exercise a complete and uncontrolled authority over his *Zamindari*, and that he should maintain a body of 2,000 horse for the service of the Company only. Accordingly in their letter above referred to the Directors condemned the action of the Governor General for demanding from Chait Singh the special sum of 50 lakhs of rupees in addition to his regular tribute, and for imprisoning him on his failure to do so. They reaffirmed the clauses of the treaty made with Raja Chait Singh and ordered the restoration of his *Zamindari* in return for an annual tribute of *sikka* rupees 22,66,180 and decreed that the Bengal Government should not interfere in the administration of the *Zamindari*. It was not the fault of the Directors if circumstances beyond their control made it impossible to give effect to this order.<sup>68</sup>

The Tanjore Raja's case next deserves our attention. In 1781 the Governor General wrote to Lord Macartney that the Raja of Tanjore had refused to send grain for the English army stationed in the Carnatic and he advised him to compel the Raja to contribute his share to the cost of war. He even suggested that the Raja should be deprived of all his resources save what were necessary for his own subsistence. Macartney before agreeing to this suggestion forwarded an extract from the Governor General's letter to the Court for their opinion. The Directors, however, did not approve of it. They wrote that the sentiments expressed by the Governor General in his letter were so "diametrically opposite to those which we (the Directors) entertain respecting the rights of the Rajah of Tanjore, and the other powers connected with the Company, and are so repugnant to every idea of justice and moderation, and the agreement subsisting between us and the Rajah, that we cannot but express our extreme surprize thereat." They hoped that the Governor General's letter "made no impression upon the minds of the Governor and Council of Fort St. George." They wrote to the Raja of Tanjore about their "unalterable determination to support and protect him in the management and government of his own territories, according to the agreement subsisting between the Nabob of Arcot, the Rajah, and the Company, and to guarantee to him and his family the quiet possession of his country." The Madras Government was accordingly ordered to act in all their transactions with the Raja of Tanjore "agreeably to these determinations."<sup>69</sup>

It was not only in great issues like the above that the English gave proof of their high sense of justice; even in trivial matters they showed

<sup>68</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1782, paras. 44-51.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 2-3.

the same spirit of fair play and equity which was to win for them the loyalty of the millions of India. When the Company's servants harassed any subject of the English king, or any subject belonging to any government with which the Company was on friendly terms, the Directors promptly took action on behalf of the aggrieved persons. Thus, as is related in a letter from the Directors dated 25 January 1782, they wrote to the Governor General that he was to inquire into the complaints relative to Mr. Bolts and Count Belgioioso, the Imperial Minister at London.<sup>70</sup> The first reference is obviously to William Bolts, a Dutchman, who is said in other records to have had a strange career. The Governor General himself intervened on behalf of the Chinese and Malaysians who had been harassed by the Company's servants. In 1782 he wrote to the Directors that while granting 'letters of marque' to the ship *Warren* he had taken care to see that the Chinese and the Malaysians were not harassed by the Company's officials.<sup>71</sup>

Another interesting case was that of Booth vs. the Company. On 25 November 1780, the Governor General had submitted to the Directors all the papers relevant to the charges which Booth had brought against the Chief and Council of Patna. The Directors in 1783 ordered that "the whole matter be sifted thoroughly to the bottom." They wished that "if any of the said charges shall be brought home to the parties accused", the matter be referred at once to the Supreme Court of Judicature or dealt with in any other manner which the Governor General might think fit; and that the latter was to take up this investigation "with zeal, temper, and impartiality", and acquaint the Directors with the result. They added, "by punishing such individuals as may justly become the objects of our displeasure, and which we are unalterably determined to do, we hope to rescue the servants of the Company from that general prejudice which they have too long laboured under in this country." But strangely enough, after this paragraph had been written, the Directors learnt that Booth had withdrawn himself from the Presidency, denying that he possessed any knowledge of the facts on which he had based his accusations against the members of the Patna Council. The Governor General, therefore, wrote to the Directors that in these circumstances he saw no ground for prosecuting the case, and that he had consequently closed the subject. But the Directors would not approve of this step, and ordered that the enquiry into the charges against the members of the Patna Council be resumed and that Booth be suspended from the Company's service.<sup>72</sup>

During this period the well-known Pitt's India Act of 1784 was passed. On receipt of a copy of the enactment it was immediately translated into Bengali and Persian; the different Presidencies were informed

<sup>70</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, para. 25. See also Smith, *Oxford History of India*, p. 510; *Indian Antiquary* 1917, p. 277; see Verelst's *A View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*.

<sup>71</sup> *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1782, para. 13.

<sup>72</sup> *Letter from Court*, 15 January 1783, paras. 35-7.

of the same; and it was resolved that "all such parts as relate to the enlarged controul of this Government over the different Presidencies and all matters of alliance and connection with the native states should be communicated to them."<sup>73</sup>

We may now pass on to the well-known case of Sir Elijah Impey, who was charged with corruption by Philip Francis in 1779. The following documents bear directly on this case— a letter dated 3 April 1779, Calcutta, written by Mr. Philip Francis; two letters by Sir Elijah Impey, both dated Calcutta, 8 August 1782; John Bayne's affidavit of the same date; a letter from John Kinlock, Superintendent of *Poolbund* Repairs, dated 1 February 1778; and an estimate of the advances "absolutely necessary to be expended this season for putting the *bunds* of this province in a thorough repair", signed by John Kinlock on 1 February 1778.<sup>75</sup> Sir Elijah Impey's name figures again in another connection. He had been appointed in 1780 to the office of Judge of *Sadr Diwani Adalat* in addition to his existing appointment of Chief Judge of the Supreme Court. The Directors wrote to the Governor General on 30 April 1782 that they were fully convinced of the impropriety of that appointment and that they had accordingly resolved that Sir Elijah Impey be removed from the office of Judge of the *Sadr Diwani Adalat*, and "we do direct that he be removed from the said office immediately upon the receipt hereof."<sup>76</sup>

But in those early days of British rule perhaps the great need of the hour was the security of life and property which was of such vital concern to the material prosperity of the people. This question seriously engaged the attention of the Government. Already steps had been taken to maintain a strong police force in Calcutta. The Bye Law creating the office of the Superintendent of Police for the town of Calcutta, had come under "His Majesty's royal disallowance"; so a new plan had to be devised to retain the office which was the only check upon the riotous and disorderly elements in that city. The Governor General, therefore, desired the Advocate General to prepare new rules, ordinances and regulations in regard to this office, which were to be passed duly into law, with the approval of the Supreme Court.<sup>77</sup>

### *Military Administration*

Concerning the vital problem of military administration the letters contain many interesting and valuable details. These deal with the general regulations concerning the Military Department, the organiza-

<sup>73</sup> Letter to Court, 28 February 1785, paras. 1-5.

<sup>74</sup> Letter to Court, 15 March 1784, paras. 22-3.

<sup>75</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, enclosures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 [i], 5[i]

<sup>76</sup> Letter from Court, 30 April 1782, para. 6. Also Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, para 36.

<sup>77</sup> Letters to Court, 23 October 1783, para. 32, 10 December 1784, para 72, and 23 March 1785, para. 17.



tion of the troops, their officers, and recruiting centres, and some problems which faced the military authorities, such as the conflict between the Company's officers and the King's officers, the abuses in the army, discipline, desertions, mutiny, and loot.

In general, all matters relating to the army were decided by the Military Board in consultation with the Commander in Chief, but the Governor General in Council was required to pay every attention to the representations that were made directly to him by the officers of the army. That is, though the Commander in Chief had very great powers regarding the conduct and organization of the army, yet the Military Board and the Governor General in Council were considered to be the final authorities in all matters, except perhaps those directly concerning action on the battle-fields. In 1783 the Governor General in Council "received repeated representations from the officers of infantry complaining of supercessions by the promotion of younger officers than themselves in the artillery or engineer corps to commissions above them in the army, and *vice versa* from the officers of those corps occasionally complaining of supercessions from infantry officers." The Governor General in Council, of course, carefully considered these complaints and set matters right.<sup>78</sup>

Without entering into a detailed description of the military establishment, we may confine ourselves to a few aspects of this vast machinery which rightly engrossed the closest attention of both the Directors and the Governor General in Council at Fort William. We shall first take up the question of the various sections in the army. The following sections are referred to in the letters under discussion: Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Bullock Corps, and Camel Corps. In addition to these which comprised both the British and Indian troops, a corps of Hanoverians consisting of two battalions, "especially recommended by the King", is mentioned in 1782. Special rules called General Articles of Agreement were drawn up for the guidance of the German troops, who were to serve for seven years from the date of their arrival in India. Two years' notice was to be given to His Majesty before the German corps could be disbanded or sent back to England. This corps was to be put on the same footing as His Majesty's troops in regard to pay, duty, and every other respect, while the Company was to pay all expenses of the corps. Detailed regulations are given concerning the raising and forming of this German contingent, the pieces of cannon which they were to carry, the levy money for every man, their subsistence money, pay and allowances, clothing and equipment, transport, treatment of the sick and wounded, their command, and jurisdiction.<sup>79</sup>

In a letter dated 21 September 1785, the Directors gave detailed instructions regarding the military establishment in time of peace. They wrote that it was of the utmost importance "to the success of our

<sup>78</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783, para. 162.

<sup>79</sup> Letter from Court, 25 January 1782, para. 55.

military operations in India that the corps which compose the armies at Bengal, Madras, and Bombay should be so formed as to enable them to take the field on the shortest notice, and to act with effect whenever they shall happen to be united upon service." With this object in view, the whole military establishment was arranged according to one uniform system, the corps of every denomination at each of the Presidencies being reduced to the same strength in point of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates. This plan was to be immediately adopted for the military establishments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay; and it was decreed that "no deviation from the proportions settled by this plan shall henceforth take place without our particular orders for that purpose."<sup>80</sup>

The standardization of battalions, brigades, and regiments, their compactness, and the uniformity of the military arrangements at Bengal, Madras, and Bombay with such changes as were inevitable, for instance, in a centre like Bombay, must have been not a little responsible for the efficiency of the Company's army and for its successes over its enemies, whose armies though generally large were mostly ill-organised and consisted of a great number of freebooters having little or no sympathy with their employers or with each other. It would be interesting for the historian to investigate as to whether and to what extent contemporary Indian governments imitated the carefully planned military organization of the East India Company. To posterity the military organization of the East India Company has one lesson to teach, *viz.*, that success attends only those who march abreast of their times, and who believe in and act with scientific precision rather than with a blind faith in numbers and in traditional methods.

The Bullock Corps attached to the army is mentioned in a letter from the Governor General dated 5 April 1783, in which we are informed that "in consequence of a representation made to the Commander in Chief by Captain Hearsey, whom he had left in the controul of the Bullock Department for the carriage of grain for the army in the Carnatic, stating that he experienced insuperable difficulties in his Department, from the interference of a person appointed by the Government of Fort St. George to keep the grain accounts and to collect the money for grain delivered out, which he begged the Commander in Chief's interference to relieve him from, lest the Department should fall again into its former confusion the Commander in Chief thought it necessary to request that we would recommend the plan which he had established for this duty to the Government at Fort St. George, especially as it had succeeded beyond his expectation, and Captain Hearsey had shewn great care and attention to reduce it to regularity."<sup>81</sup>

Two special recruiting centres for the Company's Indian army mentioned in the letters were the fort of Bijaigarh and Orissa. The

<sup>80</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785, paras. 81-2.

<sup>81</sup> *Letter to Court*, 5 April 1783, para. 150. See also *Letter to Court*, 23 August 1784, para. 48.



former was retained by the Governor General, although it belonged to the late Raja of Benares, because from its situation it was considered "a proper place for a nursery of sepoy recruits to be raised and distributed to the regiments."<sup>82</sup> Orissa became the centre for emergency recruitment. In 1782 the Commander in Chief suggested that five hundred sepoy be enlisted from the province of Orissa for immediate despatch to Bengal.<sup>83</sup> For the English regiments of the Company recruitments were sometimes made in India from disbanded corps. In 1785 six hundred non-commissioned officers who had been released from His Majesty's Royal Artillery were recruited for the European Artillery Corps. The Governor General in 1785 recommended to the Directors that gentlemen of family and education should not be recruited. He wrote, "the idea of gentlemen of family and education being reduced to the situation of serving as soldiers in this country is truly mortifying." For they were not aware of the misery they were destined to. To stop this, he suggested that those recruiting officers who had misled them should be severely reprimanded by the Directors.<sup>84</sup>

Careful regulations relating to promotions were laid down. The Directors ruled that "no officer shall be promoted from the rank of ensign without serving in that capacity at least 2 years and then to succeed to lieutenants when vacancies shall happen. As the rise for junior officers will be less rapid than it has been, and those of the rank of ensign are constantly attached to the European regiments, they may by this rule be well qualified in their profession and fit for appointments in the sepoy battalions when they become lieutenants."<sup>85</sup> It was made clear that no promotions or supersessions could be made in India without the knowledge and sanction of the Directors; and in India, the Select Committee was not allowed to interfere with the privileges of the Governor General in Council in this respect.<sup>86</sup> Even in the appreciation of meritorious military service in the field, the Directors took a keen interest, as is proved by the reward of a sword valued at 100 guineas to Colonel Cathcart "in testimony of his gallant and distinguished behaviour in storming the French redoubt near Cuddalore on the 13th June 1783."<sup>87</sup>

A number of problems confronted the military administration. There were the problems connected with disembarkation. Captains of ships were ordered on their arrival at Fort St. George or elsewhere on the coast of Coromandel, "to observe all such orders, as may be given you by the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces, for disembarking the troops from on board your ship and the landing and delivering of all the stores belonging to His Majesty that you may have on board your ship."<sup>88</sup> There was also the question of the treatment of the King's soldiers. In a letter dated 25 January 1782, referring to the Hanoverian regiments, the

<sup>82</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 May 1782, para. 20.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 22.

<sup>84</sup> *Letter to Court*, 25 October 1785, para. 58.

<sup>85</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, para. 172.

<sup>86</sup> *Letter from Court*, 15 January 1783, para. 53.

<sup>87</sup> *Letter from Court*, 22 December 1785, paras. 15-6.

<sup>88</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782 (Enclosure, para. 39).

Directors drew the attention of the Government of Fort St. George to the complaints received about the improper treatment given to the King's troops, and the failure of the Madras Government to carry out the express orders of the Court in this connection.<sup>89</sup> But the Fort William Government did not commit such a blunder. When two companies of His Majesty's 102nd Regiment under the command of Captain Honeyborne arrived at Calcutta on the *Norfolk*, the Governor General "immediately caused proper barracks to be allotted to them in the fort", and assured the Directors of his constant attention "to the accommodation of any of His Majesty's forces who may be stationed at this Presidency". Advances were given to Captain Honeyborne for the pay of his detachment according to the rates allowed to the Company's troops.<sup>90</sup>

Another perpetual source of anxiety and trouble to the Government at Fort William was the conflict between the Company's troops and the King's troops, between the Company's Commander in Chief and the King's Commander in Chief, and finally, between the Governor General in Council and the military administration. The European troops serving under the Company in India were divided into two categories—those which belonged to the Company, and those which belonged to the King of England. Officers serving in the King's regiments often volunteered to serve in the Company's army and were permitted to do so. For instance, Major John Macpherson saw service in both the armies<sup>91</sup>. Generally, however, the King's troops were distinct from the Company's troops, and were required to be treated just as well as the latter. But officers bearing His Majesty's commission ranked over those of the Company although their commissions bore a later date than the Company's commissions.<sup>92</sup> In 1783 the Company's field officers and captains forwarded a memorial to the King and Parliament praying for equality of rank with His Majesty's officers holding the same commissions in any service upon which they might act together. The remonstrance was made because several of the King's officers serving in the Carnatic had received immediate promotions. For the same reason Colonel Pearse, Commanding Officer of the Company's detachment in the Carnatic, applied for the brevet rank of brigadier and as a precedent he cited the promotion of General Goddard of the King's regiment.<sup>93</sup> A proposal seems to have been made by Colonel Gordon to unite the "King's soldiers in service with those of the Company in any other mode than that of enlisting them according to the permission granted by His Majesty". But it did not meet with the approval of the Governor General.<sup>94</sup>

Even the highest military officials were not free from this propensity to quarrel. The King's Commander in Chief maintained that he was superior to the Company's Commander in Chief, and in 1783 he claimed

<sup>89</sup> Letter from Court, 25 January 1782, para. 56.

<sup>90</sup> Letter to Court, 5 April 1783, para. 31.

<sup>91</sup> Letter to Court, 9 February 1782, para. 23.

<sup>92</sup> Peter Auber, *An Analysis of the Constitution of the East India Company*, p. 439.

<sup>93</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783, para. 164.

<sup>94</sup> Letter to Court, 17 January 1783, para. 25.

that "when and so long as any of His Majesty's forces shall be employed to act in defence of any of the Company's settlements or to assist against their enemies in the East India, the power of appointing courts martial or authorizing such appointments, shall be in the Commander in Chief of such of His Majesty's forces, for the time being, over such of the said Company's officers and soldiers as shall belong to the principal settlement where or from whence such forces shall be employed."<sup>95</sup> It is, of course, not stated here that the King's Commander in Chief had at all times and in all places more authority than the Company's Commander in Chief; but the fact that ultimately it was the British Parliament and the Crown that decided the administration of the territories of the Company must have prompted the King's Commander in Chief and officers to reckon themselves as superior to the Company's Commander in Chief and officers.

Turning to the disagreement between the civil and military authorities in India, we find in 1782 the Governor General objecting to the expenditure incurred by General Goddard, who had paid heavy premiums to the *shroffs* "for passing his bills on the Bengal Government." Although Goddard promised to abide by the resolution of the Governor General, he continued to draw bills at the same unfavourable rate of exchange as before.<sup>96</sup> Major General James Stuart's "improper interference" in allowing a cadet to be admitted into Colonel Pearse's detachment when the Governor General had altogether declined to entertain that particular cadet in 1783 was resented by the Governor General who held that Stuart had no right to appoint a volunteer in the Bengal detachment. The Governor General also took Stuart to task because he had appointed "staff officers and had taken the payment of the corps out of the hands of the proper Paymaster by directing money for their disbursements to be issued immediately from the Paymaster of the Madrass forces by which the accounts of our detachments must have been thrown into confusion."<sup>97</sup>

On two minor points we gain some interesting information. These are the promotions of Indian officers, and the recognition of the merit of Indian sepoys. In 1783 the Governor General, in consultation with the Commander in Chief, in consequence of the proclamation of peace, considered a reduction of military strength, especially of the Indian contingents, and forbade the promotion of Indian officers.<sup>98</sup> But it need not be surmised from this that the Company's Government was loth to promote Indian sepoys or to recognise their merit. In 1784 the Governor General wrote: "In our consultations noted in the margin you will observe the honourable marks of distinction which we were induced to confer on the sepoys of the Bombay Detachment on their return to this side of India. The faithfull and approved services of these troops merited

<sup>95</sup> *Letter to Court*, 3 February 1783, para. 26.

<sup>96</sup> *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1782, para. 38.

<sup>97</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, paras. 54-5.

<sup>98</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, para. 156.



every mark of favour and encouragement that we could devise consistent with a due attention to your interests. In addition therefore to the rewards before given, we were happy in adopting a recommendation of Mr. Thomas Law, your Collector of Gaya, to exempt such as were Hindoos from the duties which are generally collected at that place, and particularly so when this invaluable benefit is to be allowed without any deduction in the collections; the *Aumil* having very liberally promised to accede to an indulgence so well applied."<sup>99</sup>

A great abuse which both the Directors as well as the Bengal Government tried their best to eradicate was the consumption of liquor by the soldiers and the profits which the officers in charge of this intoxicant often secured. "We have been", wrote the Governor General in Council on 7 December 1782, "under the necessity of proposing a regulation to be passed into a bye law for the restriction of shops allowed to retail spirituous liquors to the inhabitants of this town. Arrack shops had become so numerous and licentious that they were grown into a perfect nuisance. Some were established even within the precincts of the hospital, and the enticement held out, in all parts of the town and its precincts, to licentiousness and intoxication in the soldiers of the garrison had proved so ruinous to the constitutions of the few Europeans who composed this corps that we thought it high time to put a stop to such a destructive evil by placing the shops under proper control and regulation." The Bye-Law was immediately communicated to the Directors.<sup>100</sup> The intoxicant that played havoc among the soldiers was Benkulen arrack, although there was also a good demand for Madeira wine. The excessive consumption of the former caused great concern among the Directors. On 10 December 1784, they ordered the Governor General to give every assistance to General Sloper, who was trying to suppress the excessive use of spirituous liquors among the soldiers, and to put an end to the profits which resulted from it to the commanding officers at different stations.<sup>101</sup> The evil arose because there was till then no regulation controlling the commanding officers in the sale of the intoxicants, and likewise no restrictions on the pecuniary advantages which they derived by debasing the quality of the intoxicants and selling them at excessive profits. The Directors ordered that section 8 of the Articles of War, by which such profits were expressly forbidden, be applied against the officers forthwith.<sup>102</sup>

Discipline in the army was a vital problem; allied to this were the questions of desertions and mutiny. The despatches contain many instances of punishment of soldiers of all grades—ensigns, captains, majors, and even of a general. Usually these punishments were determined by courts-martial. In the case of European officers of the Company's army, a court-martial was summoned by virtue of a warrant issued to the Commander in Chief by the Governor General in Council. An interesting question arose when a court-martial, after completing the trial of Major

<sup>99</sup> *Letter to Court*, 10 December 1784, para. 46.

<sup>100</sup> *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1782, para. 35.

<sup>101</sup> *Letter from Court*, 10 December 1784, paras. 6-7.

<sup>102</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785, paras. 95-7.

Adderley, refused to obey the order of the Commander in Chief to proceed with the trial of Lieutenant Thompson. The point of law raised was whether a court-martial having been summoned with the sanction of the Governor General in Council to try a particular person, could be ordered by the Commander in Chief to take up the trial of any other person as well. On the matter being referred to the Council, it was observed that the court-martial had committed a mistake in not obeying the direction of the Commander in Chief, since an order had been issued previously that it should sit on the trial of all prisoners that might be brought before it; the consideration of the question of the right claimed by the Commander in Chief was however, postponed.<sup>103</sup> In this connection, the Directors issued a standing order that "whenever officers shall be dismissed by the sentence of a general court martial and the same meeting with your (the Governor General's) approval such officers must on no account be permitted to remain in India."<sup>104</sup>

The high sense of fairness which marked the Company's administration is shown in the provision which the Government made for securing looted property from a captured fort, and for punishing its officers who ransacked the treasures in a captured fortress. The question of prize-money came to a head with the capture of the Bijaigarh fort in 1781, when the troops led by Major Arthur Balfour looted the property and claimed it all for themselves. The Governor General, however, called upon the sharers to refund the booty and to submit their pretensions to the Board and, on their refusing to do so, he filed a suit against the commanding officer as well as the other officers who had allowed this plunder. The matter was then left to the decision of a committee of field officers in the Bengal Presidency, who were not connected with the capture of that fortress.<sup>105</sup> But the Directors ordered that the "conduct of the commanding officer upon this occasion be immediately enquired into by a court martial", and the result of this inquiry be communicated at once to them.<sup>106</sup> The Commander in Chief, however, thought it improper to execute the order of the Directors, since a civil suit on the same subject had been filed in the Supreme Court. The point was decided in favour of the Company.<sup>107</sup>

There was only one major mutiny in these four years. In a despatch dated 23 August 1784, the Governor General refers to the measures he had taken "in consequence of advices respecting the mutiny of the cavalry in the Carnatic." In April 1784 four regiments of the Nawab of the Carnatic's cavalry which had been taken into the Company's service mutinied at Arcot and Arni. The men had not been paid for long; in addition they had claims upon the Nawab for money due to them before 1780, and it is probable that they feared their transfer from his service might either prevent or at all events delay their liquida-

<sup>103</sup> *Letter to Court*, 10 December 1784, paras. 41-2.

<sup>104</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1782, para. 17.

<sup>105</sup> *Letters to Court*, 14 February 1782, para. 7; and 15 July 1782, para. 24.

<sup>106</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1782, para. 19.

<sup>107</sup> *Letter to Court*, 17 January 1785, para. 33. See Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, pp. 212-3, for the disallowance of prize-money obtained in the Rohilla Campaign.

tion. They, therefore, confined their officers in barracks, took over the fort of Arni, and demanded payment of their arrears of pay. The Government took immediate steps to suppress the mutineers. When order had been restored it was resolved that the 1st, 2nd and 4th Regiments, which had mutinied, should be reduced and a new force be selected out of these reduced regiments. It was also resolved that as soon as the new regiments had been recruited they "shall receive new standards in lieu of the old ones, which shall be taken from them; that after having been enlisted and having received the bounty, the same as sepoy recruits, they be sworn to be faithful and true to the service, and to defend their colours to the last." A copy of these resolutions was forwarded to the Directors by the Secret Department.<sup>108</sup>

Desertions from the army and the navy are likewise mentioned occasionally in the letters. While dealing with the desertion of Chief Officer Thomas Lee from the ship *Chesterfield*, the Governor General remarked that there was "frequent desertion of the sworn and petty officers" in the ships, which demanded an immediate remedy. Such persons were not to be re-admitted into the Company's service, and penalties were to be exacted from their securities for breach of their engagements.<sup>109</sup> In 1783 Lieutenant Thomas was ordered down the river Hooghly to apprehend deserters. He complained against Captain Maxwell of the *Hinchinbrooke*, who was not inclined to deliver to him some men on board that ship. Thereupon, the Governor General recommended that the severest penalties with heavy fines be imposed on commanders of ships, who were suspected of having received on board deserters or having decoyed the servants of the Company, and that the most "positive prohibitory orders on this subject" be issued by the Directors.<sup>110</sup> In the same year (1783) several commanders and officers of ships at Bombay seem to have encouraged the soldiers stationed in that city to desert, and to come on board their respective ships. With a view to ending this practice which was "subversive of good government", the Directors authorized the Governor General in Council to dismiss immediately "such of the captains and officers as shall, in future, be found to disobey them. We have likewise confirmed a regulation of the Bombay Government, that the commanders of ships shall on no account receive a single man on board at any of our Presidencies without first producing him at the Town Major's office in order to ascertain whether he be really a soldier or not; and we hereby direct that you [Governor General and Council] adopt a similar regulation."<sup>111</sup>

### *Retrenchment in the Army*

The Company as a rule made reductions in its military forces upon the conclusion of a war. In 1783, when peace was signed, the

<sup>108</sup> Wilson, *History of the Madras Army*, Vol. II, pp. 151-4. See also *Letter to Court*, 23 August 1784, para. 20.

<sup>109</sup> *Letter to Court*, 29 November 1783, para. 14.

<sup>110</sup> *Letter to Court*, 1 August 1785, para. 60.

<sup>111</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785 (General Letter), para. 12.



regiments of sepoy throughout the provinces were reduced from 1000 to 780 rank and file each. The Governor General in the same year forbade the promotion of Indian officers, put an end to the recruitment of sepoy to the Indian corps, and dissolved the establishment which had been maintained for that purpose at Bijaigarh. The cavalry regiments were disbanded and 300 of the best horses were sent to Madras for mounting Sir John Burgoyne's Corps of Light Dragoons. The staff of Colonel Pearse's detachment was reduced; the sepoy of the artillery corps at Surat were discharged; the corps of militia sepoy was likewise reduced; the detachment under Colonel Sir John Cummings in the Vazir's dominions was struck off; and the same fate befell the detachment under Colonel Blair at Chunar. Further important reductions in the army were proposed, but they were to be implemented only on the arrival of the new Commander in Chief, who was to succeed the late Sir Eyre Coote.<sup>112</sup>

The above instances, and others not cited<sup>113</sup> here, enable us to appreciate one aspect of the Company's rule which, unfortunately of late, more because of ignorance and prejudice than because of any substantial evidence, has been magnified as one of the most prominent features of the Company's government in India. It has been often said that the East India Company drained the country of its wealth, and lived a life of military aggression. The varied commercial dealings of the Company do give an impression that the mind of the Directors was most often justifiably fixed on the accumulation of wealth. But an impartial examination of their economic activities and of their financial position absolves the Company of such a grave charge, at least so far as the period of our study is concerned. As regards the other charge that the Company was a monster of military aggression, we may note, firstly, whether in respect of imperialistic expansion, the Company was worse than any of its Indian contemporaries; and secondly, whether like any of its Indian contemporaries, it permanently maintained a military strength that was unrelated to peace requirements. On the first point, any one who has carefully studied the available documents on the history of the Mughals, the Marathas, and the Sikhs, not to mention those relating to powers like the rulers of Mysore and the Carnatic, cannot but be struck by the reckless military adventure which the contemporary Indian rulers indulged in, very often in complete defiance of all canons of financial economy.<sup>114</sup> Whatever else the Company did, it certainly did not have recourse to a life of perpetual political gamble. Indeed, the Company compares favourably with all other Indian governments in regard to this grave defect. As regards the second point, the available evidence concerning the Indian governments shows that they never thought of reducing their armed strength: in fact, one may even maintain without any exaggeration that their military machinery was always expanding. But

<sup>112</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, paras. 155, 158-9.

<sup>113</sup> *Letters to Court*, 15 March 1784, paras. 20-1; 1 April 1784, para. 2; 23 August 1784, paras. 47-8; and 10 December 1784, paras. 35-6.

\* <sup>114</sup> Read G. S. Sardesai, *Selections from the Peshwa Daftar*, for instances of desperate appeals made by the Peshwas for monetary aid.

that was certainly not the case with the Company's government. The evidence we have supplied above proves that immediately on the cessation of hostilities, they curtailed their military strength and expenditure, thereby showing that they attached a greater value to peace than to war.

### *Political History*

From the point of view of political history, the despatches before us are of some significance inasmuch as they deal with most of the prominent actors on the political stage of the time—the Dutch, the Spaniards and the French among the Europeans, and the rulers of the Carnatic, Tanjore, Mysore, the Deccan, Gwalior, Oudh, Benares, Lucknow, the Punjab, and Nepal, and even the leaders of the notorious Sanyasis among the Indians.

We shall first deal with the Dutch, about whom so little is found in the standard works on Indian history of this period. In July 1781, Great Britain and the States General were openly at war, and the Directors ordered the Governor General to seize the Dutch ships and factories in the East Indies. A small force was accordingly despatched from Chandernagore, then in the hands of the English, to Chinsura to seize the Dutch factory. The Chief, Mr. Ross, however, came to a secret understanding with the Governor General and surrendered Chinsura to the English without any resistance.<sup>115</sup> After the surrender of Chinsura the Governor General sent four Commissaries of Stores to that place to make a survey of the ordnance taken from the Dutch, with a view to transferring them to the British arsenal. But the Dutch materials and weapons of war were of "such indifferent quality as to be thought not worth the expence of transportation"; hence it was decided to leave them there in the charge of the Commissaries.<sup>116</sup> At Patna, Dacca and Kalkapur Commissaries with the requisite staff were appointed for collecting the Dutch investment. About this investment the Governor General wrote: "We hope soon to be able to ship it off with a particular account for your information."<sup>117</sup>

The Dutch prisoners of war at Chinsura were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to be sent to Europe by the ships of the season. Many of the prisoners remonstrated, chief among them being Mr. Ross, who urged the necessity of his proceeding by way of Ceylon. The Governor General refused his demand, and insisted that Ross should obey his orders. Of the other prisoners, only those who could be transported during that season were to be sent while others were to remain in India till the next season.

<sup>115</sup> *Bengal : Past and Present*, Vol. XXVII, Part II, pp. 180-1. See also *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, para. 67.

<sup>116</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 February 1782, paras. 15-6.

<sup>117</sup> *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1782, para. 61.



The inhabitants of Chinsura, after its surrender, were in a poor plight. Sir Robert Chambers, who had been sent there as Superintendent of the Courts of Justice, represented to the Governor General in Council that they were "deprived of their former means of subsistence", and "were reduced to the greatest indigence", several of the more respectable families being driven to such distress as "to sell off their furniture and ornaments to maintain themselves." The Government at Fort William at once took steps to relieve their suffering and contributed some money for their support with special instructions "to relieve more privately the wants of those families who might be degraded by the receipt of public charity."<sup>118</sup>

In the letter to Court dated 7 December 1782, we are informed that the Commissaries at Chinsura stated to the Governor General that the Company could claim a considerable sum of money from Mr. Roder-macker, the late Chief of the Dutch factory at Patna, "on account of advances charged in his accounts for the opium allotted to that Company and consequently received by him from the Dutch funds but not actually paid." The Governor General ordered the amount to be demanded from him. As to what happened to this was to be communicated to the Directors in due course by the Governor General.<sup>119</sup>

An interesting side issue concerning the Danes was the one relating to the Indian sailors whom they had employed in navigating their ships. Several of these lascars "who had been hired to assist in navigating Danish ships, soon after their arrival in Denmark, have found means to come to London", wrote the Directors in their letter dated 12 July 1782 to the Fort William Government. The Directors strongly suspected that "they were encouraged by some interested persons in order to exonerate themselves from the expence of their return to India." The condition of these Indian sailors in London and the plan adopted to send them back to India are given in the next part of the despatch. "After they had been sometime in London they have been reduced to great distress and applied to us for relief, which we have afforded them from motives of compassion and humanity as well as of policy." The Company was thereby "put to great expence, not only for their maintenance and cloathing but in returning them to India." The Directors therefore wrote to the Governor General asking "that if any method can with propriety be devised to prevent the like inconvenience in future it may be adopted."<sup>120</sup>

Concerning the Spanish activities on the seas, we have only one reference in a letter from the Governor General dated 30 December 1783, but referring to the year 1780. The ships *Lively*, *Royal George*, *Hillsborough*, and *Mount Stewart*, which had formed part of a convoy, were captured by the Spanish fleet in the month of August 1780. It cannot be made out where exactly these British ships had been captured by the

<sup>118</sup> Letter to Court, 9 May 1782, para. 18.

<sup>119</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, para. 65.

<sup>120</sup> Letter from Court, 12 July 1782, para. 8.

Spaniards. The *Lively* arrived at Calcutta on 27 April 1781; and since copies of the royal warrant disallowing a bye-law reached Calcutta through the other ships, we are to presume that all the above-mentioned ships were released by the Spaniards.<sup>121</sup>

The French naturally figure very conspicuously in the despatches. In 1782 reports from Ganjam reached the Governor General that a French privateer had burnt and destroyed a large number of country craft laden with grain for the settlement of Fort St. George, in the Bay of Coringa. The Governor General, therefore, "thought it advisable to authorize a gentleman then on the point of sailing with some vessels laden with rice, on the Company's account, to agree to any moderate terms of ransom that the enemy might demand in case of his falling into their hands, stipulating at the same time against the chance of recapture in his way to Madras; and we allowed him upon obtaining sufficient vouchers of the fact to draw upon us for the amount." But soon the French privateer "quitted her station upon a rumour of the approach of the *Chaser* frigate which arrived at Coringa shortly after her departure". Other grain vessels laden by the Company arrived safely at Madras.<sup>122</sup>

The question of affording protection to the grain ships that were despatched to Madras caused great anxiety to the Fort William Government. Large stores of grain were procured for being despatched to that Presidency from Calcutta in April 1782. This was done by directing the different collectors of grain districts, which had fortunately produced very abundant crops, to make purchases on the Company's account and to send them at the cheapest rates to Calcutta. This piece of news mentioned in a letter dated 10 April 1782 from the Governor General is particularly interesting inasmuch as it is one of the instances of what in modern parlance may be styled "surplus districts" coming to the rescue of "deficit areas". To continue with our main topic, the Government of Madras was asked to engage all the available tonnage for the transport of this grain and Commodore Alm's Squadron, which had just then arrived in India, was requisitioned for convoying the grain ships. It was hoped that this fleet would be able to cope with that of the French in any naval engagement.<sup>123</sup> This confidence in the English fleet, however, was misplaced. The English ships *Fortitude*, *Queen* and *Yarmouth* were all captured by the French frigate *La Finer*. The *Admiral Hughes* packet also fell into the enemy's hands and for a time English shipping was seriously threatened. But Admiral Rodney's great naval victory over France in the West Indies in 1782 and the capture of the men-of-war *Actionnaire* and *Pegase* together with a number of other ships carrying troops completely removed the French menace.<sup>124</sup> In the Indian waters, too, the English fleet did not remain idle. In the same year 1782, the French cutter *Lizard* was captured by the English at Tranquebar, and its crew was carried off to Bombay.

<sup>121</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783, paras. 34-5.

<sup>122</sup> Letter to Court, 9 February 1782, paras. 12-3.

<sup>123</sup> Letter to Court, 10 April 1782, paras. 11-2.

<sup>124</sup> Letter from Court, 18 June 1782, paras. 4-5.

Previous to the receipt of the proclamation of peace with France in 1783, the Fort William Government was undecided as to what should be done with the French prisoners—whether to send them direct to Europe or exchange them for English prisoners as desired by Colonel Savornier, the Chief Officer at Fort William, who promised to become surety for the neutrality of the men. But immediately on the cessation of hostilities between England and France, a firm decision was taken to dispose of the French prisoners. First, due precaution was taken to see that no French prisoners from Calcutta embarked on the ships of the Company for China. Next, it was decided, as desired by the Governor and Council of Fort St. George, to send all French prisoners to Madras to be delivered up to Marquess de Bussy. Captains of ships were asked to give the lowest terms to the passengers, and as many as possible of the French prisoners were thus sent away.<sup>125</sup> It may be noted in this connection that the Company, having experienced many inconveniences from prisoners of war being sent to Europe in ships sailing to China, directed that they be sent directly to Europe.<sup>126</sup>

### *Raja of Berar*

In 1780 Haidar joined the confederacy formed by the Nizam and the Maratha Chiefs for the expulsion of the English from India. He invaded the Carnatic and after capturing all the important forts marched on Madras. To relieve Madras, the Governor General despatched a small force from Bengal under Colonel Pearse and won over the Raja of Berar to the English side. A sum of 16 lakhs of rupees was to be given to the Raja who agreed to supply a body of cavalry to Colonel Pearse's detachment, to withdraw his army from Orissa and to assist in the war against Haidar. The Directors did not approve of the agreement, but in view of the zeal shown by the Governor General and the concurrence of the Commander in Chief, finally acquiesced in it because it would help them to revive the military spirit and confidence in the Commander in Chief, which had "been depressed by recent and most alarming misfortunes."<sup>127</sup>

### *The Nawab of the Carnatic*

The Nawab of the Carnatic appears prominently in the letters both from Calcutta and from London. In a letter of 28 January 1784, the Directors asked the Governor General to use, if necessary, his influence, "to prevail on the Nabob of Arcot to reduce his expences all he can, consistent with his dignity, and to consider that justice calls upon him, in the strongest terms, to reimburse the Company a reasonable portion of those heavy charges incurred to save him and his country from destruction."<sup>128</sup> The Nawab's heavy debts for which some British subjects were responsible formed one of the major issues in the dealings between the Nawab of Arcot and the Company.<sup>129</sup>

<sup>125</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783, paras. 46 and 147.

<sup>126</sup> Letter from Court, 15 January 1783 (General Letter), para. 13.

<sup>127</sup> Letter from Court, 25 January 1782, paras. 62-3.

<sup>128</sup> Letter from Court, 28 January 1784, para. 14.

<sup>129</sup> Appendix 3, Letter to the Nawab of Carnatic, 1 December 1784, para. 9.



The agreement concluded in 1781 between Fort William and the Nawab, by which the latter agreed to assign the Carnatic revenues to the Company on certain conditions, was disapproved by the Directors. They thought that it was neither necessary nor expedient and therefore ordered it to be cancelled.<sup>130</sup> To the letters which the Nawab wrote to the Directors, they replied that they reposed great confidence in the honour and integrity of the Nawab, who, in case of any dispute between him and the Madras Government, was to accept the decision of the Governor General in Council.<sup>131</sup>

The Raja of Tanjore, who was declared by the English a vassal of the Nawab of the Carnatic, likewise appears on the scene on more than one occasion. In 1782 the Governor of Madras was directed to refrain from reducing the Raja of Tanjore to penury.<sup>132</sup>

### *The Nizam*

The Nizam of Hyderabad may next be mentioned. The Directors learnt with satisfaction from the despatch of the Select Committee of Fort St. George dated 17 February 1781, "that Nizam Ally, after having been so justly provoked by the proceedings of our late Select Committee, has not availed himself of the embarrassed situation of affairs, that he has assumed milder language; and that from the intelligence from the Deccan nothing dangerous was to be immediately expected from that quarter." In 1779 the Nizam had bitterly resented the proceedings of the Madras Select Committee with respect to the Guntur Sarkar. Sir Thomas Rumbold, Governor of Madras, had induced Basalat Jang, the Nizam's brother, to give up Guntur which he had then rented to the Nawab Walajah. He had further provoked the Nizam by his proposal to withdraw the subsidy paid to him since 1765, on the ground that it should never have been granted. The Nizam retaliated by opening negotiations with Haider. But the Governor General in Council, who was kept informed of these transactions by John Hollond, Resident at Hyderabad, immediately intervened and assured the Nizam that the intentions of the British were honourable and pacific, that Guntur would not be occupied and that the arrears of the subsidy would be discharged as speedily as possible. The Directors commended this "timely and effectual interference of the Governor General in Council," and hoped that the prudent conduct of those who administered the affairs on the Coast would contribute to the restoration to the Nizam of "that confidence in the Company's honor and faithfulness which had been so much shaken by the improper behaviour of their predecessors."<sup>133</sup> The Resident at Hyderabad Mr. John Hollond was praised by the Governor General as having been instrumental in securing the conciliatory conduct of the

<sup>130</sup> *Letter from Court*, 12 July 1782, para. 51.

<sup>131</sup> *Letter from Court*, 23 April 1784 (Enclosure 1). Appendix 3, *Letter to the Nawab of Carnatic*, 1 December 1784.

<sup>132</sup> *Letter from Court*, 28 August 1782, paras. 2-3.

<sup>133</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, para. 26.

Nizam and in withdrawing the latter from a powerful confederacy of which he was the head.<sup>134</sup>

Hollond was succeeded as Resident by Johnson, who was not a success. Johnson wrote to the Directors of a proposal made by the Nizam for the surrender of the Carnatic to the latter, which the Directors at once turned down. The proposal was so repugnant to the Directors that they recalled Johnson at once and gave a general directive that "our Residents at every Court must be instructed to watch over the views and wishes of those with whom they are stationed but by no means to give any encouragement to a deviation from the treaties under which we at present hold our possessions."<sup>135</sup>

### *The Marathas*

Interesting facts about the Marathas are available in the letters before us. A letter from Raghunath Rao to the Court dated 24 November 1778 was delivered to the Directors by two persons called "Hurmunt Rum and "Monoher Parsee" [Hanumant Ram and Maniar, a Parsi], employed, as they declared, by Raghunath Rao for that purpose. The Directors felt that, "the subject of Ragobah's letters is now by no means necessary to be particularly discussed." But they thought it necessary to acquaint the Governor General that "if in concluding a peace with the Maratta State, a suitable provision could be made for Ragobah, it would be highly agreeable to us." The Maratha messengers were properly accommodated at the Company's cost during their stay in England. The Directors granted them £ 1,200 to defray the cost of their passage to India, and believed that they would return to India "impressed with proper ideas of the Company's beneficence toward them, and of the liberal reception which they have met with in England."<sup>136</sup> The Governor General wrote in his letter dated 5 April 1783 (referring to the transactions that had taken place about January or February in the same year) that "by the 6th article of the treaty concluded with the Marrattas, a suitable provision is made for the future subsistence of Rogonaut Row, and such, as we conceive, he will have no cause to be dissatisfied with, as he had once before resigned himself of his own accord to the protection of Madajee Sindia, on whose good faith we have the greatest reliance. And letters have been written by Madajee Sindia to Rogonaut Row offering him protection and soliciting his acceptance of it, and from Mr. Anderson recommending it to him."<sup>137</sup>

Mahadji Sindhia is also mentioned in the despatches. From a letter from the Directors dated 25 January 1782, we learn that on or about 29 November 1780, the Governor General had advanced money for a small force to be despatched under Major Carnac to Gohad, in the

<sup>134</sup> *Letter to Court*, 3 February 1783, para. 21. See also Marshman's *History of India*, Vol. I, pp. 382-4.

<sup>135</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785 (General Letter), para. 24.

<sup>136</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, paras. 20-4.

<sup>137</sup> *Letter to Court*, 5 April 1783, para. 25.

Maratha dominions, to support the Rana of Gohad against Mahadji Sindhia as well as to divert Sindhia's attention from General Goddard who was then attacking Bassein.

The Directors also mention here that the Governor General had advanced three lakhs of rupees for the use of army under the command of Chimnaji Bhonsle, which was, as has already been observed earlier, "without the authority or knowledge of the Council." They justified in a way the advance of money by stating that the Governor General was apprehensive of the opposition to the proposal in the Board; but they felt that he could have informed them of the channel through which the money came into his possession. However, they deferred a final judgement on this question pending the arrival of full details. The advance to Chimnaji Bhonsle was given by the Governor General at his own risk.<sup>138</sup> They opined, in the same despatch dated the 25th of January 1782, that "the most urgent necessity" warranted such a measure.<sup>139</sup>

### *Oudh and the Rohilla Chief*

The policy of the Company was not to interfere in the affairs of the Indian princes. The accounts of Indian princes like that of Mahadji Sindhia by Lieutenant Anderson, Resident at the former's Court, only helped to confirm the Directors in their decision to maintain strict neutrality in the disputes of the Indian rulers. As the Directors declared in 1782: "While they [Indian princes] leave us and our allies in the quiet possession of our territories we must be careful observers of the movements of other powers, but never without absolute necessity, take a part in their political contentions."<sup>140</sup>

Affairs in Oudh had reached a critical stage, because of the domestic complications and the activities of the Rohilla Chief Faiz-ullah Khan. The Treaty of Chunar (19 September 1781) between the Company and the Nawab had to a large extent relieved the latter of the expenses for the maintenance of the Company's troops. It had also permitted the Nawab to resume such *jagirs* as he might find necessary "with a reserve that all such jaghiredars for the amount of whose jaghires the Company are guarantees, shall, in case of the resumption of their lands, be paid the amount of their net collections through the Resident."<sup>141</sup> The *jagirs* to be resumed included those of Bahu Begam, the Nawab's mother. But as early as 1775 the Resident at the Vazir's Court had not only obtained from the Begam, the widow of the late Shuja-ud-Daulah, on the Nawab's account 30 lakhs of rupees, half of which had to be paid to the Company, but also the forbearance of 26 lakhs for the repayment of which she had security in land on the Nawab's agreeing to renounce all further claims upon her, the Company being guaran-

<sup>138</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, paras. 127-30.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 130.

<sup>140</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785 (General Letter), paras. 26-7.

<sup>141</sup> *Letter from Court*, 14 February 1783, paras. 2-4.

tors for this agreement. Bahu Begam was therefore entitled to the Company's protection. Hastings, however, held that the guarantee no longer bound the Company as the Begams had "principally excited and supported the late commotions" (Raja Chait Singh's rebellion) and had aimed at the extirpation of the British in India. But the Directors did not subscribe to this view. They did not think that the Begams and their people had taken any hostile part against the Company; or that they had excited any commotion previous to the imprisonment of Raja Chait Singh. The Begams, they held, "only armed themselves in consequence of that transaction", purely from motives of self-defence. They therefore ordered the Governor General to use his influence with the Vazir in order to restore the *jagirs* to the Begams or to "afford those ladies an asylum within the Company's territories", and to see that the net collection of their revenues was paid to them, as per agreement, through the Resident.<sup>142</sup>

At the conclusion of the Rohilla war in 1774, a treaty had been signed between the late Shuja-ud-Daulah and Faiz-ullah Khan, the Rohilla Chief, whereby Rampur and some other districts in Rohilkhand were handed over to the latter on certain conditions. It is not clear from the treaty "what equivalent was made to the Vizier". But from a letter written by Colonel Champion, as mentioned in the Governor General's Consultation dated 31 October 1774, it appeared that Faiz-ullah Khan was to give to the Vazir half of his treasure. On 9 March 1778, the Governor General was informed by Middleton, the Resident at the Vazir's Court, that there were reports of hostile intentions of the Rohilla Chief. He thought that Faiz-ullah Khan's disaffection might be due to his alarm at the Nawab's unjust resumption of the *jagirs* granted by his father in 1774 and at his oppressive conduct in general. But on 4 May 1778, Barwell, the Commissioner, who had been deputed to Rampur to investigate the truth of the report, informed the Board that Faiz-ullah Khan had not violated the treaty in any way. Faiz-ullah Khan, convinced as he was that only the English could protect him, asked that his treaty with the Nawab might now receive the Company's ratification. Middleton transmitted to the Board a new treaty ratified by the Company embodying the terms of the old. The Governor General confirmed this and accepted one lakh of rupees on behalf of the Company "as an acknowledgement from Fyzoola Khan."<sup>143</sup>

In November 1780 the Board, on receiving information that some Sikhs and Gaddis, a tribal people of the Punjab, were committing depredations in Rohilkhand, asked the Vazir "to require from Fyzoola Khan his quota of troops", which the Governor General fixed at 5000 horse, though according to the treaty, as the Directors remarked, whenever the Vazir declared war, Faiz-ullah Khan was to join with only 2000 or 3000 men, and these not necessarily horsemen. Faiz-ullah Khan

<sup>142</sup> *Letter from Court*, 14 February 1783, paras. 5-10.

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 11-5.



politely replied that he would send 2000 horse, which was all the cavalry in his service, and that he could not spare any of his 3000 infantrymen as without them he could not collect the revenue of his *jagirs*. The Governor General interpreted the Rohilla Chief's reply as an evasion of the treaty but he agreed to reduce his demand to 3,000 horse.

Faiz-ullah Khan was unable to comply with this also, but he offered to supply to the Governor General 1000 foot in addition to the 2000 horse, and to give them one year's pay in advance and furnish further funds during the war. On the very day the Governor General received an account of this reply (4 June 1781), a letter from the Vazir was read at the Board, in which he proposed to resume the whole of Faiz-ullah Khan's *zamindari* and leave him "to join his other faithless brethren that were sent across the Ganges, and in lieu thereof to pay him the amount stipulated by the treaty, after deducting the pay of 5000 troops". The proposal found favour with Hastings who was dissatisfied with Faiz-ullah Khan's reply and considered him guilty of a breach of the treaty. And on 19 September he signed a new treaty with the Nawab of Oudh which conceded the right the latter had requested.<sup>144</sup>

The Directors' views on this affair reveal their great anxiety to observe the obligations and promises made to the Indian rulers. They expressed their surprise at the original demand of 5000 horse which was not warranted by the treaty. About the subsequent reduced demand of 3,000 horse they said that "so hasty and peremptory a demand" carried the impression that the Governor General was looking for "a pretext for depriving him (the Rohilla Chief) of his jaghire entirely, or to leave him at the mercy of the Nabob." They severely condemned the unjust proceedings against a faithful ally of the Company and criticized the arrangements made in 1781 with the Vazir of Oudh. "We do not only arraign the justice of the measure, but its policy also", they said, "as we can nowhere discover that Fyzoola Khan has been guilty of a breach of treaty and thereby forfeits the protection of the Company." They accordingly ordered the article to be immediately cancelled and Faiz-ullah Khan confirmed in the possession of his territory.<sup>145</sup> This timely interference of the Directors together with the realization by the Governor General that "neither the Vizier's nor the Company's interest would be promoted by depriving Fyzoola Khan of his independency" saved the latter from destruction.

A lady of culture, ability, and attainments, Nawab Munni Begam, widow of Mir Jafar, also suffered because of the demands of the Company. Her application for the restoration of her annual allowance of one lakh and forty thousand rupees, and Warren Hastings' own letter, written without the knowledge of the other members of the Council, make

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 16-20.

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 18, 21-7.



pathetic reading, and reveal the Governor General's solicitude to help the needy.<sup>146</sup>

The Raja of Benares also figures in the letters under review. In 1782 the Resident at Benares represented that the customs duty of five per cent on spices, raw silk and other articles fixed by Raja Mahip Narayan of Benares was too heavy; so it was reduced to two and a half per cent. It has been seen above that the fort of Bijaigarh, which had once belonged to the Raja of Benares but had been forcibly taken from him by the Company, had been converted into a recruiting centre.<sup>147</sup>

### *Relations with Tibet*

In 1783 the Governor General thought it might be "of public utility at this time to renew and confirm the intercourse which had been established between the Government and the Lama of Thibet." He, therefore, proposed on 9 January 1783, to send Lieutenant Turner at the head of a deputation to that country. Turner was to seek means by which amicable relations with the Lama could be maintained and intercourse with the interior regions as far as China established.<sup>148</sup>

### *Sanyasis*

The Sanyasis—a body of banditti claiming to belong to a religious fraternity—who had started their depredations in Bengal from about 1760 caused much havoc during the period under review. On 15 and 24 March 1783, information was received from Charles Grant, the Resident at Malda, that a "body of Sinassies" [Sanyasis] had assembled and were pillaging the country in that neighbourhood. These were the followers of Manju Shah, the notorious Sanyasi leader. The Governor General decided that their depredations could be checked only by a proper military force. Therefore, one regiment was ordered on this service from the nearest military station.<sup>149</sup>

### *Surveys*

The Fort William Government introduced scientific topography in India. Improved methods of survey gave them far more accurate information than was possible in earlier times. The success of the British arms against their numerically superior adversaries was in a great measure due to the fact that they usually possessed a thorough and scientific knowledge of the country through which they marched. Hence it became a policy of the Government to develop land survey in India.

<sup>146</sup> Appendix 2, *Letter from Warren Hastings to the Court*, 3 November 1783, and 1 copy of the *arzi* or petition made by the Nawab Munni Begam.

<sup>147</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 May 1782 paras. 19-20.

<sup>148</sup> *Letter to Court*, 3 February 1783, para. 24.

<sup>149</sup> *Letter to Court*, 5 April 1783, para. 157.

Some well-known surveyors and geographers like Colonel Kelly, Major Rennell and Captains Call, Ritchie and Forrest are mentioned in these papers. In 1782 we are informed by the Governor General that Lieutenant Colonel Kelly of the Madras Establishment "has lately made us a tender of a most valuable collection of charts and surveys of the Carnatic, formed and procured by him during a long course of service in that country. We have individually examined them. From the apparent accuracy with which they are drawn and the utility of the plan on which they are constructed being calculated both for present use and the easiest reception of future improvements until the provinces in Decan and Carnatic shall have been completely surveyed, they appear to us a most important and useful acquisition, especially as they comprize the scene of our present military operations in the Carnatic, and in this light we understand they have already proved a serviceable guide to General Sir Eyre Coote in regulating the motions of his army. We have therefore agreed to accept of them, as an acknowledgement of the sense we entertained of the work; and to afford some compensation to Colonel Kelly for the great expence which he must have been at in compiling them, we resolved to make him a gratuity and to recommend him to you for the appointment of Geographer to the Company in the Carnatic. In the meantime we have requested that he will continue to furnish us with such further additions to the geography of the countries which he has laid down as he may be able to obtain without prejudice or hindrance to his military duty as an officer, from his own observations and enquiries, for which we have promised to allow him a due recompense."<sup>150</sup>

A few conclusions may be drawn from the above extract. Firstly, the work of surveying etc., was done by qualified and experienced individuals in their private capacity, as in other industries like mining etc. Secondly, the value of these topographical surveys was, no doubt, immediately felt in the military field, but, as the Governor General observes, they were "calculated both for present use and the easiest reception of future improvements." Thirdly, the Company's Government promptly took advantage of the results of individual labour, and paid recompense to the individual concerned.

Major Rennell did for Bengal what Lt. Col. Kelly had done, and was doing, for the Madras province. In 1781 the Court of Directors sent a number of Major Rennell's atlases to Bengal with directions for their sale and we learn from the Governor General's despatch dated 29 November 1783 that "they have all been disposed of accordingly and the produce of sales, amounting to current rupees 9,590-14-0 deposited in your treasury."<sup>151</sup> In the same year (1783), in appreciation of his work, the Directors ordered that a number of copies of Major Rennell's Map of Hindustan together with the book explaining its construction be acquired for the Company.<sup>152</sup>

<sup>150</sup> *Letter to Court*, 15 July 1782, para. 22.

<sup>151</sup> *Letter to Court*, 29 November 1783, para. 38.

<sup>152</sup> *Letter from Court*, 15 January 1783 (General Letter), para. 62.

In 1783 Captain Call, the Surveyor General, was informed of the orders of the Directors for charts and geographical information and the Governor General gave him particular injunctions "to prepare them for you as soon as possible, and to send them to us that they might be forwarded by the earliest dispatch."<sup>153</sup>

In the same year the Directors had ordered that "a survey be made of Codjen and the coast to the southward of Point Palmiras, and that endeavors be used for ascertaining the position of the Schedam Rock."<sup>154</sup> In their letter of 9 December 1784, they reiterated their great interest in securing regularly all maps, charts, etc., and gave directions for the use of oil paper for tracing maps. There are interesting details in this letter as to how a surveyor should conduct his work.<sup>155</sup>

### *Medical Facilities*

The Company was also responsible for placing the science of surgery and medicine on a firm footing. No doubt, the science of medicine had received great attention at the hands of the earlier rulers of India. But surgery which seems to have existed in some shape in the pre-British days in India, received very great impetus only at the hands of the English.<sup>156</sup> The policy of encouraging qualified British physicians to come to India and practise here seems to have been enunciated long before the earliest date of the despatches. An eminent physician who was permitted by the Directors in 1777 to proceed to India was Dr. Rowland Jackson; he won much popularity in the Bengal Presidency.<sup>157</sup> The letters abound in instances of medical men recruited from England, and of the measures taken by the Directors to supply the three Presidencies with doctors.

There was a hospital for foundlings at Calcutta. The Governors of this hospital requested the intervention of the Directors in order that "charity may recover the amount of a legacy left to them by the late Omichund in Bengal." The Governor General was ordered by the Directors to receive the amount into the Company's treasury at interest, which together with the principal was to be paid from time to time to the person or persons who were authorized by the Governors of the hospital to receive the same.<sup>158</sup> This hospital is not to be confused with another mentioned in the Directors' letter of 11 April 1785.<sup>159</sup>

### *Public Market*

A plan for a public market in Calcutta was submitted by Mr. Tiretta to the Governor General, who sent it to the Committee of

<sup>153</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, paras. 73-4.

<sup>154</sup> *Letter from Court*, 15 January 1783 (General Letter), paras. 57-8.

<sup>155</sup> *Letter from Court*, 9 December 1784, para. 19.

<sup>156</sup> The clue to some aspects of surgery seems to have been taken by the Europeans from India. See *Journal of the Bombay University*, No. XIV. Part IV, January 1946, pp. 52-66.

<sup>157</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 August 1784, para. 63.

<sup>158</sup> *Letter from Court*, 11 April 1785 (General Letter), para. 69.

<sup>159</sup> *Letter from Court*, 11 April 1785 (Separate General Letter), para. 18.

Revenue for their opinion. The Committee was to consider whether the grant applied for would be attended with any prejudice to the revenue, and whether in their opinion, the design was objectionable. On the Committee's recommendation Mr. Tiretta was permitted to establish a public market place with proper buildings for stalls. The market had three divisions for the sale of the different necessities of life, *viz.*, meat, fish, and vegetables. Mr. Tiretta was to pay to the Government, for the lease of the market and its grounds for five years, the usual rent of the bazars, which amounted to rupees 500 per division per annum.<sup>160</sup> Within two years of the opening of this market, (*i.e.*, 1785), the services of a wholtime official were found necessary to attend to the extensive dealings and transactions of the market and Mr. Robert McFurlane was appointed Clerk of the Market.<sup>161</sup>

### *Cultural Activities*

The Company advanced the cause of learning during the four years of our study by opening schools for oriental learning and for mathematics and giving patronage to oriental scholars. A madrasah or a college for the promotion of oriental learning had already been established at Calcutta in 1781. In 1782 it was placed upon a proper and regular footing, and the buildings for that purpose were completed. The Governor General assigned the revenues of "certain villages in its neighbourhood" amounting to 1,200 rupees per month for its support.<sup>162</sup>

We may now turn to some oriental scholars whose names are mentioned in the despatches. One of them was George Forster. He had acquired a thorough knowledge of Marathi and other languages. In 1785, the Directors recommended him to be employed as Marathi interpreter as occasion might arise in negotiations at any of the Maratha *Darbars*.<sup>163</sup> Francis Gladwin, Joseph Champion and Major Davy were great scholars of Persian literature. Gladwin translated the voluminous *Ain-i-Akbari* of Abul Fazl Alami, Champion the first part of Firdausi's heroic poems,<sup>164</sup> and Davy the *Institutes of Timur*. Capt. William Kirkpatrick had acquired great proficiency in the Hindi language of which he prepared a comprehensive grammar.<sup>165</sup>

A Mathematical School was established mainly for the advancement of military science. Lieutenant Colonel Watson, Chief Engineer of the Company, had recommended to General Stibbert that a Mathematical School should be established at Fort William "for the benefit of the officers of the Engineering Corps." Stibbert concurred with Watson that it would be an institution of great public utility and the Governor General agreed with them, and appointed Mr. Burrow as the Master of the School.<sup>166</sup>

<sup>160</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, para. 141.

<sup>161</sup> *Letter to Court*, 10 December 1784, paras. 75-6.

<sup>162</sup> *Letter to Court*, 15 July 1782, para. 20.

<sup>163</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785 (General Letter), para. 15.

<sup>164</sup> *Letter to Court*, 31 December 1785, paras. 37-40.

<sup>165</sup> *Letters from Court*, 27 January 1785, paras. 21-2, and 11 April 1785, para. 7.

<sup>166</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 February 1784, para. 26.



The art of painting according to the Western style was fostered by the Company. Two prominent painters, Sir John Zoffany and Mr. Charles Smith, figure in the letters. In 1783 they were permitted by the Directors to proceed to India to practice in their profession as portrait painters.<sup>167</sup> In 1784 the Directors permitted Mr. John Smart, a miniature painter, and Messrs. Ozias Humphrey and Francis Wheatley, portrait painters, to proceed to India for the same purpose.<sup>168</sup>

An important step in the direction of maintaining and preserving archives was taken in 1783 when the Governor General wrote thus to the Directors: "Finding it every day more and more necessary from the accumulation of the voluminous records of this Government and the difficulty of collecting, by reference to them, an instant knowledge of the standing rules and orders effecting each particular case or question before us, and considering the necessity of employing an active and laborious person for compiling and arranging them, in the first instance, for such a number of years back, we resolved to confer that appointment upon Mr. John Petrie."<sup>169</sup>

The Directors also looked to the moral needs of their servants. They encouraged the construction of churches. In 1785 they gave a sum of £1200 to the Calcutta church for acquiring a "communion plate, an organ, a clock, bells, and velvet for the pulpit, desk and communion table."<sup>170</sup>

### *Checks on Foreign Trade*

A serious problem which faced the Company was that its servants and other British subjects residing in India were lending money to its rivals in trade and helping them in other ways. The Directors, therefore, in their letter of 25 January 1782 forbade the Company's servants and other British subjects residing in India from "lending money to foreign companies or foreign European merchants, and from purchasing goods on their accounts, and from being concerned in such transactions and from giving credit by bills of exchange on persons in Europe." The Company's servants who transgressed the law were liable to be suspended and licensed traders found guilty of such transactions were to be deprived of their licences and the Company's protection and to be sent at once to England.<sup>171</sup>

### *Charity*

On the social side some praiseworthy attempts were made to ameliorate the condition of orphans and widows, disabled soldiers and sailors. In 1783 a plan was proposed and generally agreed to by the army officers and a committee was set up for maintaining and providing for the

<sup>167</sup> *Letters from Court*, 15 January 1783 (General Letter), para. 29; and 23 January 1783, para. 16.

<sup>168</sup> *Letter from Court*, 9 December 1784, para. 18.

<sup>169</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, para. 183.

<sup>170</sup> *Letter from Court*, 11 April 1785 (General Letter), para. 68.

<sup>171</sup> *Letter from Court*, 25 January 1782, paras. 73-5.

orphans of officers who died in the Company's service. A fund was to be raised for this purpose by stoppages from the pay of every officer and surgeon from the rank of major downwards, who had voluntarily consented to the proposal. The Paymaster General was to collect this money with the help of the managers of the fund.<sup>172</sup> The managers undertook to maintain the orphans on an allowance of rupees three per month for each orphan. A piece of ground was allotted for erecting a proper place for the reception and care of all the children who came under the charge of the managers; and a building was ordered to be constructed immediately for their benefit.<sup>173</sup> By 1785 the above organization had developed into the Society for the Benefit of Orphans. The Governor General and Council contributed *sikka* rupees 40,000 for the support of the institution, which was to be refunded by the managers if the Court of Directors disapproved of "the donation within three years."<sup>174</sup> This contribution was approved by the Directors. They seem to have appreciated the objects of the above institution, for in 1785 they permitted Mr. and Mrs. David Brown to proceed to Bengal to superintend the education of the orphans of the officers and soldiers of the Bengal Establishment,<sup>175</sup> and advanced £315 to Mr. Brown for their passages.<sup>176</sup>

The Company likewise came to the relief of deserving widows. On the representation of the widow of the late Mr. John Stewart that she was in distress because of the difficulty of taking to England the property of her deceased husband, the Directors permitted her to remit £1500 through the Company's cash only for one year. But since she was in continued distress the Government on their own responsibility agreed to remit her bills for another year in 1782.<sup>177</sup>

Widows of British army officers and soldiers received relief from Lord Clive's Bounty Fund. In 1784, the widow of the Reverend Mr. Stanley, Chaplain to the Third Brigade, was given a pension, evidently from the same fund.<sup>178</sup> Invalid and superannuated European officers of the army were also entitled to the benefits of this fund, as is evident from the fact that when Captain William Gawith, Lieutenant Thomas Failer and Lieutenant Laurence Rawstorne had to retire from service due to ill health they were given pensions from this fund.<sup>179</sup>

The Directors also made provision for disabled Indian soldiers. In 1785 a plan was prepared by the Governor General which had for its object the relief of Indian soldiers and officers who had been disabled in the Company's service. Portions of waste land were to be allotted to them within the districts under the charge of the Collector of Bhagal-

<sup>172</sup> Letter to Court, 5 April 1783, paras. 160-1.

<sup>173</sup> Letter to Court, 23 October 1783, paras. 180-1.

<sup>174</sup> Letter to Court, 25 October 1785, para. 70.

<sup>175</sup> Letter from Court, 11 April 1785 (General Letter), para. 23.

<sup>176</sup> Letter from Court, 22 December 1785, para. 12.

<sup>177</sup> Letter to Court, 7 December 1782, para. 55.

<sup>178</sup> Letter to Court, 16 February 1784, para. 16.

<sup>179</sup> Letter to Court, 17 January 1785, para. 28.



pur according to their ranks. Since this scheme solved the double question of providing relief to disabled Indian soldiers and of increasing the land under cultivation, the Directors approved of it.<sup>180</sup>

### *Famine Relief*

Natural calamities like famines, storms and fires were studied, and the remedial measures taken by the Company, especially in connection with famines, had a great effect upon the stability of the Company's rule in India. In 1782, there was a severe famine in Madras.<sup>181</sup> The scarcity had been first felt early in 1781. In January 1782 people were dying in the streets. On 15 October of the same year owing to a "most severe gale of wind" almost all the trading vessels in the harbour "were either sunk or driven on shore". The consequent loss of grain which was "estimated at upwards of 30,000 bags" aggravated the "prospect of famine". The President and Select Committee of Fort St. George, finding the situation most alarming, "thought it necessary to seize upon all the grain which should be imported for the public stores, paying the proprietors a very advanced price for the same by bills upon us." This measure did not appear to the Governor General to be advantageous either to the Company or to the individuals who imported rice at Madras. He therefore recommended free trade in rice which he believed would bring quick relief to Fort St. George. To prevent the possibility of any unnecessary competition for tonnage among exporters in Bengal which would enhance the freight rates the Bengal Government forbade the Agent for Shipping at Calcutta "to take up any vessels beyond his present engagements, on the Company's account, and resolved not to send any further supplies of rice to Fort St. George by public agency but on the Company's ships, leaving the trade entirely free to individuals." In order to encourage this free trade the Governor General promised "to give a fixed price of 120 Ps. per *grace*, payable by bills, for all the good cargo rice which should be delivered into store at that place, as a certain and last resort to the owners, leaving them at liberty to dispose of it on better terms, by private sale, if they had an opportunity." Liberal contributions made at Calcutta and "the established monthly allowance collected at Madras" for the support of the poor Indian inhabitants of this settlement proved, however, inadequate, as hundreds continued to die daily. A charitable subscription list was therefore opened at every civil and military station, and Rs. 50,000 were subscribed in the Company's name for meeting the urgent needs of the population. In this manner, every attempt was made to alleviate the suffering of the people at Madras.<sup>182</sup> By the middle of 1783 the situation eased considerably. But a great famine in upper India was now beginning to rage. It extended from the Indus to the Karamnasa, but it was most acutely felt in the region between Agra and Delhi and to the west of Delhi. The people

<sup>180</sup> *Letter from Court*, 21 September 1785 (General Letter), para. 10.

<sup>181</sup> For a more detailed account of this and other famines in Madras read Love, *Vestiges of Old Madras*, Vol. III, pp. 195, 225, 229-36.

<sup>182</sup> *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1782, paras. 23-6.

in the famine-affected areas beyond the Jumna began to leave their homes and the Government of Bengal passed orders to encourage their immigration to Bihar "both from the humanity of saving them... and the lawful desire, in such case, of increasing the subjects of the Companies [Company's] dominions."

The Bengal province did not suffer in this famine to any considerable degree but there was a scare. The province of Bihar suffered greatly by the failure of the last harvest and by the artificial want caused by the apprehensions of a greater scarcity. The complaints and fears of it extended to Bengal where there was plenty.

The Government, to encourage the influx of rice from the eastern districts of Bengal, removed the duties on grain of every kind, and laid an embargo on exportation by sea except as regards the contracts already made for the supply of rice to Madras. They also appointed a Committee of Grain consisting of "four commissioners to superintend the price, distribution and sale of rice throughout all the provinces dependant on this Government."<sup>183</sup>

The Committee collected information "respecting the August harvest and the state of the December crops". They also calculated, on the basis of tonnage booked, that more than 1,100,000 maunds of rice were due to be exported from Bengal. The exportation of so large a quantity of rice could not be done, as the Committee pointed out, "without a hazard of exposing to the last extremity of want the lives of so many persons as could be subsisted by it." The Bengal Government therefore made "the embargo on the exportation of rice by sea general and total" and revoked the resolution admitting a free exportation beyond the provinces." The Government took credit that "by the timely interposition of our authority, we have in a great degree prevented the fatal effects of scarcity."<sup>184</sup>

Captains of ships who contracted to carry grain as well as the rice merchants were "very great sufferers" by the embargo, and the Government felt that such persons as had actually shipped grain but were prevented from exporting it were entitled to some compensation. The Committee of Grain considered this matter and decided that 8 annas per bag would be a reasonable compensation.

It was during this famine that on the proposal of the Governor General the Bengal Government decided that "buildings of solid masonry should be constructed to serve the purposes of perpetual granaries to the two provinces"<sup>185</sup> of Bengal and Bihar, and the Chief Engineer prepared a plan for a granary at Patna "which still stands as monument of past resolutions, bearing its inscription, 'For the perpetual prevention of famines in India', but empty and disused."<sup>186</sup>

<sup>183</sup> *Letter to Court*, 23 October 1783, paras. 146, 193-7.

<sup>184</sup> *Letter to Court*, 29 November 1783, paras. 20-8.

<sup>185</sup> *Letter to Court*, 9 February 1784, paras. 16-23.

<sup>186</sup> *Report of the Indian Famine Commission (1885)*, part III, pp. 14-5.

*Slave Trade*

Before we conclude our survey of the letters under review, it is worthwhile to note that slave trade was legal in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. In 1783, the Directors ordered that two "black seamen" by name Salvadore and Joachim, who had come to England on the *Fox* brig, be put on board the *Swallow* to be conveyed to Canton. They are described as slaves who ran away from their masters at Macao, "and for whom the supra-cargos paid their full value." The Directors ordered that, on their arrival in India, they were to be sent to Canton, "in order to their being returned to their masters", and that the supracargoes "may be reimbursed the sums they have paid on their account."<sup>187</sup>

<sup>187</sup> *Letter from Court*, 10 September 1783, para. 32.



# LETTERS FROM COURT





## LETTER DATED 1 JANUARY 1782

*Administration of justice in Bengal—compensation to Mir Barkatullah and others.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. When the late Act<sup>1</sup> respecting the administration of justice in Bengal was agitated in the House of Commons, it was intended amongst other things, not only to release from prison and indemnify the native Magistrates and others therein named, but also to make provision for the future subsistence of Mir Burkut Ulla and Gullum Muckdum<sup>2</sup> in their former condition and situation, and to declare them Mahomedan Counsellors to the Court and Council at Patna, with all the privileges, profits and emoluments thereto belonging; and also, in consideration of their losses and long imprisonment, to pay to each of them severally, or to their order, out of the Company's treasury the sum of five thousand pounds three months after demand; and also to Behauder Beg, who had acted under the authority of the Council of Patna and been imprisoned, the sum of two thousand pounds, in three months after demand, without prejudice to any claim or remedy which he or his father, or next heir at law, might have in law or equity to any lands or goods whatsoever; and in case of the death of any of the beforementioned persons before the arrival of the Act of Parliament at Calcutta, or before the money became payable, then the above sums to be payed to the lawful representative of the deceased; and likewise the sum of five thousand pounds to the child or children of the Magistrate of Patna, called the *Cadi* or *Cauzi* Saadi, who died as he was under conveyance to prison, (if any child or children he had) and to the widow of the said *Cauzi* Saadi, during her natural life, a pension or annuity equal to the salary of her late husband. And if the said *Cauzi* Saadi should have died without issue, then a sum of one thousand pounds to be also paid to his widow, and one thousand pounds also to his nearest male relation or relations of the same degree.

2. As the Company were equally desirous with the promoters of the Bill to contribute to the relief of the unhappy sufferers, and to make the compensations abovementioned, and thereby to manifest their regard for the native inhabitants of Bengal, it was, upon due consideration, judged advisable and more honourable for the Company to omit the compulsory clauses in the Act, and agreed that order should be given by the Court of Directors in their next advices to the Governor General and Council for the money to be issued from their treasury, and paid accordingly.

3. We therefore direct that within three months, to be computed from the day of the receipt of these our orders at Fort William, you issue from our treasury and cause to be paid to Mir Burkut Ulla, or to his

order, the sum of five thousand pounds; also to Gullum Muckdom, or to his order, the sum of five thousand pounds; also to Behauder Beg the sum of two thousand pounds without prejudice to any claim or remedy which he or his father, or next heir at law may have, in law or equity, to any lands or goods whatsoever; and if any of the parties shall not be living at the time of the arrival of this our order at Calcutta, or shall die before the money become payable, or is paid, the same shall be paid to his or their lawful representatives; also to the child or children (if any there be) of the late *Cauzi* Saadi of Patna five thousand pounds; also that you pay, or cause to be paid, to the widow of the said *Cauzi* Saadi, during her natural life, a pension or annuity equal to the salary of her late husband; also to the said widow of the said *Cauzi*, if he shall have died without issue, the sum of one thousand pounds; also in that case to the nearest male relation or relations of the said *Cauzi* Saadi the sum of one thousand pounds; and it is our pleasure that the said monies be issued from our treasury, and the payment thereof be made free of all charge or expense to the receivers and within the time before limited.

4. We have already noticed that it was intended by the Act to have reinstated Mir Burcut Ulla and Gullum Muckdom, and to have declared them Mahomedan Counsellors to the Council of Patna with all the privileges, profits and emoluments thereto belonging. It appearing that their error or misconduct (if any hath been) did not proceed from corrupt motives, and the Act having directed that they should be forthwith discharged from their imprisonment on security being given for the damages recovered, which security you are required to cause to be given on their behalf, and that it shall be competent to appeal to His Majesty in Council against the judgment, we hereby direct that you take care to pay due obedience to the directions given in the said Act; and also that Mir Burcut Ulla and Gullum Muckdom be forthwith restored to their respective offices as Mahomedan Counsellors to the Council of Patna, with all the privileges, profits and emoluments thereto belonging.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Lau. Sullivan / Wm. James / Jno.  
Woodhouse / John Hunter / John  
Roberts / John Harrison / Jas. Moffatt /  
W. G. Freeman / Henry. Savage / W.  
Bensley / L. Darell / George Tatem /  
Jn. Townson / Thos. Cheap / F.  
Baring / Thos. Parry.

London,  
the 1st January 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 3.

Received per ship *Worcester* November 9th 1782.

## LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1782

*Sailings of ships—commercial statistics—Raghoba's letters—Bolts's case—appointment of Stables to the Fort William Council—new appointments—plan to improve fortifications—terms of appointment of Hanoverian Regiment—Coote's victory over Haidar Ali—the pact with the Raja of Berar—General Goddard's victory at Bassein—Dutch power in India to be destroyed—Captain Summer's estate—monetary assistance to foreigners forbidden—mining and coinage to be Company's sole responsibility—Sir Elijah Impey's appointment as Judge of Sadar Diwani Adalat under consideration—strength and pay of King's regiments—defalcations by paymasters—views on various contracts—Master Attendant not to hold marine contracts—views regarding advances of money by Hastings for supporting Camac's army and Berar army—no claim to toll on Company's investment to be entertained except in return for adequate advantages—new plan for trade in raw silk—no contract for printing of chintz to be granted—Stibbert appointed provincial Commander in Chief.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The *Tryal* schooner, Captain Poynter, carried our dispatches of the 29th August; other transcripts thereof are herewith sent.

2. By the ships *Duke of Grafton*, *Walpole*, *True Briton* and *Fox*, which happily arrived from St. Helena in company with the fourteen other ships mentioned in the accompanying list of arrivals and departures of shipping, we received your advices in the different departments, viz.,

General Letter, Civil and Secret Departments, dated 29th November [17...]

General Letter, Board of Trade, dated 25th and 29th November [17...]

General Letter, Revenue Department, dated 25th and postscript 29th November [17...]

General Letter, Law Department, dated 25th November [17...]

Letter from the Governor General, dated 29th November [17...]

General Letters by Major Scott, dated 7th and 13th January [17...]

Letter from the Governor General to the Chairman, dated 6th January [17...]

3. The names and destination of the ships taken up for the present season are as follows, viz.,

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Consignments
<i>Alfred</i> ...	... 758	James Brown	} Coast and China
<i>Calcutta</i> ...	... 761	William Thomson	
<i>Ganges</i> ...	... 758	John H. Dempster	
<i>Morse</i> ...	... 864	Joseph Elliott	
<i>Royal Henry</i> ...	... 804	Ralph Dundas	
<i>Earl Talbot</i> ...	... 758	Robert Taylor	



Ships	Tons	Commanders	Consignments
<i>Royal Bishop</i>	... 720	William Mears	Bombay and Bencoolen
<i>Ceres</i>	... 723	Thomas Price	} Coast and China
<i>Dutton</i>	... 755	James West	
<i>Norfolk</i>	... 723	Saml. Chas. Bonham	
<i>Major</i>	... 755	David Arthur	
<i>Hawke</i>	... 723	Francis Scott	} Coast and Bay
<i>Worcester</i>	... 723	John Cook	
<i>Kent</i>	... 755	Peter Stoakes	} Coast and China
<i>Warren Hastings</i>	... 755	Thomas Larkins	

4. Besides the abovementioned ships we have agreed to take up the following, now building in the room of the undermentioned, viz., *Mount Stuart*, *Bute*, *British King*, *Shrewsbury*, *Talbot*, *Ankerwyke*, *Canton*, *Europa*, *Godfrey* and *Royal George*, whose names and consignments will be advised by a future opportunity.

5. Having agreed to advance to the commander of each ship monthly, on account of the owners, the sum of two hundred pounds from the time of his arrival at the first port in India to his final dispatch for Europe, at the rate of 2s. 1d. per current rupee in Bengal, and at the other Presidencies and China at the rates mentioned in the charterparties, you must therefore not only send on the ship (if she shall be dispatched by you to any other port in India or China) an account of what money you have advanced to the commander, but also transmit to us the like account in duplicate.

6. As the *Egmont* could not be got ready in time to proceed on her voyage the last season, we have taken her up on the same terms as the ships now outward bound, and the owners have changed the ship's name to the *Royal Bishop*.

7. Besides the ships mentioned in the preceding paragraph we have taken up the *Nottingham*, *Brilliant* and the *Ann* and *Emelia* as transports to carry troops and stores for the run to India only, and when they have duly delivered all the goods, stores, effects and recruits and every thing else belonging to the Company, the said ships are then to be disposed of on account of the owners, and we send by each ship the counterpart of the charterparty which must be strictly complied with, particularly that [part] wherein it is expressly stipulated, that none of the said ships shall be sold to any European nation whatsoever, except the English, nor to any of the country powers in the East Indies, without the leave and permission of the Company's Governor and Council or Chief, or Resident, where they shall happen to be disposed of, and the purchaser or purchasers are to give security to the said Governor and Council to submit to and abide by the said conditions.

8. As two thirds of the freight of the said ships are to be paid in England, and the remaining third at their final port of delivery, we shall

send by each ship a stated account of what the owners receive to the time of the ship's departure.

9. In case any of the said ships should be ordered to Bengal, and there finish their voyages and be discharged the service, we have directed our other Presidencies to forward to you the counterparts of the charter-parties and all other necessary papers and informations that you may know how to act in compliance therewith.

10. We hereby permit the captain of the ship *Ann and Emelia*, if she shall be disposed of in Bengal, to pay into your treasury the amount of the produce of that ship and her stores, for which you are to grant bills of exchange, in the like manner you are directed to do for her freight, which bills are to be made payable to Messrs. Angerstein and Lewis.

11. Mr. James Campbell, late third mate and purser of the *Warren* cartel ship which was seized by the French at Mauritius, having applied to us for payment of his wages and the balance of his account with the Company, we have, in consideration of the hardships of his situation, advanced him £400 on account, and herewith send copies of the memorials and accounts he presented to us, in order that the same may be settled in Bengal which is hereby directed to be done, and the balance which shall be due to him paid; we have permitted him to take his passage on one of the ships now under dispatch.

12. Our exports to the several Presidencies in India and China this season will principally consist of the following articles, and we also advise you of the remains of last season which could not be then sent for want of tonnage, viz.,

#### For Bengal

Cloth 405 bales; long ells 60 bales; broad long ells 45 bales; and of the remains of woollens of last season 870 bales of cloth, 42 bales of long ells, 35 bales of broad long ells, flannels 10 bales containing 200 pieces for cartridges; lead 100 tons; copper 600 tons; iron 200 tons.

#### For Fort St. George

Cloth 465 bales; long ells 15 bales; also 10 bales of white serges for cartridges the remains of last season. Copper 500 tons; lead 200 tons; iron 200 tons; gunpowder about 1200 barrels of 60 lbs. each.

#### For the Presidency of Bombay

Cloth 471 bales; long ells 85 bales and 27 bales of broad long ells; also 1210 bales of cloth; 316 bales of long ells and 36 bales of broad long ells of the remains of last season; lead 150 tons; copper 370 tons, and a further quantity of 60 tons remaining of last year; iron 200 tons.

## For Bussora

Cloth 352 bales and long ells 300 bales of 10 pieces each, being the remains of last season.

## For China

Cloth 712 bales; long ells 1750 bales and 39 bales of camblets of 20 pieces each; also of the remains of last season 9 bales of cloth, 60 bales of long ells and one bale of camblets. Lead 600 tons.

13. Enclosed you will receive copies of the orders of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, permitting the Company to export warlike stores and copper under the restrictions therein mentioned, and you must obey those orders by returning the certificates required.

14. On account of the very great demand which will be required for the accommodation of His Majesty's and our military force and transportation of stores of all kinds, we have been obliged to prohibit any articles being sent out to either our civil or military servants.

15. The quantity of saltpetre, to be laden on the ships consigned to Bombay this season, is to be the same as the former season.

16. As our Presidency of Fort Marlborough will stand in need of many articles from Bengal, you are to afford them such assistance as may render our settlements on that coast of the greatest utility to the Company.

17. As most of the consignments for your Presidency this season are laden on the ships bound to Fort St. George and China, now under dispatch, we have given directions to our President and Council at Fort St. George to land all the consignments for your Presidencies and to forward them by the first opportunities.

18. We have appointed the following gentlemen to be our Council of Supra Cargos at Canton for managing the Company's affairs in China this season, viz., Mr. James Bradshaw, William Henry Pigou, George Rogers, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Browne, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce, Charles Edward Pigou, Henry Lane, David Lance, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Kuyck Van Microp, William Fitzhugh.

19. Our trade in China having of late years sustained very great injuries from the improper interference of the King's officers, and the constant residence of certain persons in that kingdom, we transmit you copies of our observations and special orders thereupon as sent (by the ships now under dispatch) to our supra cargos of Council there; and you are hereby required, so far as the said observations and orders regard your Presidency, to act in the strictest conformity thereto. We have also enclosed copy of our commission given to our supra cargos on this occasion for recalling from China the several persons therein mentioned.

20. Enclosed we transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter from Ragobah<sup>1</sup>, dated the 24th day of November 1778, brought hither by Hurmunt Rum and Monoher Parsee employed, as they declared, by him for that purpose.

21. In Ragobah's letter to us, the names of the messengers are not expressed; but by a letter from Ragobah to His Majesty it should seem that Hur Jewon Row had been the person deputed to bring the before-mentioned letters to England.

22. The subject of Ragobah's letters is now by no means necessary to be particularly discussed. We, however, think it necessary to acquaint you, that if, in concluding a peace with the Maratta State, a suitable provision could be made for Ragobah it would be highly agreeable to us.

23. Copy of our letter to Ragobah comes a number in the packet for your further information.

24. We also think it necessary to inform you, that the agents or messengers<sup>2</sup> who brought Ragobah's letters were properly accommodated at the Company's charge during their residence in England; and that the sum of £1,200 was granted them to defray their passage to India. And we have reason to expect that they will return home impressed with proper ideas of the Company's beneficence toward them and of the liberal reception which they have met with in England. Copies of letters received from them, dated at Brussels and Venice, are numbers in the packet.

25. We transmit for your information and guidance, copies of two letters from His Majesty's Secretaries of State respecting Mr. Bolts<sup>3</sup>, together with the representation of Count Belgioioso<sup>4</sup>, the Imperial Minister, and we strictly enjoin and charge you to take especial care that no just cause of offence be henceforth given to any subject of His Imperial Majesty or to the subjects of any prince or state whatever in amity with Great Britain.

26. It is with great satisfaction we learn from the 9th paragraph of a letter from our Select Committee of Fort St. George, dated the 17th of February last, that Nizam Ally, after having been so justly provoked by the proceedings of our late Select Committee, has not availed himself of the embarrassed situation of affairs, that he has assumed milder language, and that from intelligence from the Deccan nothing dangerous was to be immediately expected from that quarter. We attribute this change of behaviour in the Nizam to the timely and effectual interference of our Governor General and Council, and we have no doubt but the prudent conduct of those persons, at present in the administration of affairs on the Coast, will also much contribute to restore to the Nizam that confidence in the Company's honor and faithfulness which had been so much shaken by the improper behaviour of their predecessors.



27. Philip Francis Esqr. having resigned his office of one of the Council at Fort William in Bengal, we have, in pursuance of the powers vested in us by several Acts of Parliament, nominated and appointed John Stables Esqr. to succeed to the said office, which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve, copy of which approval and of our commission given to Mr. Stables are herewith sent; he takes his passage on the ship *Worcester*, and his salary is to commence from the time of his embarking on board that ship.

28. In consequence of the recommendations of Mr. Tilman Henckell, Senior Merchant on your establishment, we direct that he do succeed as Resident at Rungpore on the first vacancy.

29. We have permitted Mr. Nathaniel Bateman<sup>n</sup> to return to Bengal (on a Dane ship) as a Senior Merchant with the usual salary and allowances, and we also direct that when a vacancy shall happen in the Board of Trade after Messrs Becher, Lane, Ryder and Grucher are provided for, agreeable to our former orders, he be admitted thereto as youngest member, but is not to be appointed to the charge of any Chiefship without our express directions.

30. We have appointed Mr. William Berrie (whom you strongly recommended to us for preserving the Company's records at Patna from fire in 1769) to be a Junior Merchant in Bengal, and to take his rank as such from the time of his arrival at Calcutta.

31. Mr. Samuel Grindall is hereby appointed a writer at your Presidency in the room, and with the rank, of Mr. Thomas Furn as advised in the 46th paragraph of our letter of the 31st May last; Mr. Grindall being in India, his covenants will be sent by one of the ships under dispatch, which are to be executed by him and returned.

32. We have also appointed Mr. George Cheap to be a writer at your Presidency in the stead, and with the rank, of Mr. Charles Wilks as advised in our letter of the 31st May last.

33. Messrs Christopher Oldfield, Thomas Meyers and Francis Pierrard, appointed writers for Bengal last season, proceed thither in the ship *Worcester*, and they are on their arrival to rank agreeable to our letter of the 31st May last.

34. The rank of Mr. John Elliot, whose appointment as a writer for your Presidency was advised in our letter of the 2nd February 1781, is to be next below Mr. Henry Taylor.

35. Mr. Charles Wyatt, who took his passage on the *Blandford*, is to rank as a Practitioner Engineer at your Presidency next under Edward Dandridge.

36. The Reverend Mr. Arthur Ackland Barber, whom we have appointed Chaplain to the troops serving in the Vizier's country with the usual pay and allowances, proceeded to his station on the ship *Lord Mulgrave*.

37. Mr. J. D. Mattos, a cadet at your Presidency, having effected the recovery of his health for which he came to England, has our permission [to] return to his duty without prejudice to his rank.

38. Major Henry Bevan, Captains Walter Bourke, George Hoggan and Edmund Lambert, also Lieutenant Anthony Hamilton, who came to England with your licence, have our permission to return to their duty without prejudice to their respective ranks.

39. Captain Lieutenant John Wemyss of your artillery returns to his duty, without prejudice to his rank, on the *Ganges*.

40. We shall send 116 cadets to your Presidency. Lists of their names and rank will be conveyed to you by the latter ships, and they will be furnished with certificates of their appointment signed by our Secretary.

41. We have appointed Mr. James Parlbby to be a Practitioner Engineer at your Presidency; he takes his passage on the *Worcester*.

42. Mr. Richard Henry, one of the cadets for your Presidency of last season, proceeds to his station on the *Hawke*, and is on his arrival to take rank next below Lowther Peele.

43. Lieutenant William Craggs returns to Bengal, and is on his arrival to rank as the 164th lieutenant, which was the standing he held when he quitted the service. We have lent him £100 on his bond to repay the same out of his pay and emoluments, which will be sent by the ship whereon he takes his passage.

44. We have licensed Captain Thomas Adair, formerly an officer on your establishment but who has since been admitted as an invalid on the Military Fund<sup>6</sup>, to proceed to and remain in Bengal for three years provided he took his passage on a neutral ship.

45. We have also permitted Mr. George Gordon to proceed to Bengal on a neutral ship to exercise his profession of a printer.

46. Captain Hugh McDermot, who proceeds to his rank in your military by the ship *Ann and Emelia*, has been advanced by us £100 to be repaid out of his growing pay and emoluments agreeable to the tenour of his bond herewith transmitted.

47. Mr. Thomas Richardson, who proceeds on the *Rodney* packet, is on his arrival to rank next below Mr. Roderick Fraser, a cadet of the preceding season.

48. Mr. John Bullivant, appointed a cadet for your Presidency in 1778 in the room of Mr. Edmund Pytts Myddleton, is to rank next below Mr. Henry Nicholas Lionel Berkley.

49. Mr. Mackenzic Aird is appointed a cadet for Bengal in the room of, and with the rank of, Mr. Stephen Rowand who was nominated last season but did not proceed thither.

50. We have appointed the following gentlemen cadets for your Presidency, who are on their arrival to rank as cadets of last season, viz.,

Mr. Alexander O'Hara next below Mr. Paul Cudmore

John Missing next below John Dickens

George Johnston next below Thos. Horner

James Livingston next below George Bogle

James Davidson next below Robt. Broughton.

51. We have also appointed Messrs Griffith Jones, Thomas Amphlett, Joseph Richardson and William Springham Pryor (who are abroad) to be cadets for Bengal, and we shall advise their rank by a future opportunity.

52. We have permitted several persons to proceed to India this season to practise as surgeons, who are to be employed in our service as assistant surgeons where they may be wanted, and approved lists thereof will be sent with the rank in which they are to serve.

53. Major George Burghall, late of our Corps of Engineers at Fort St. George, having submitted to our consideration a plan proposing sundry improvements in the mode of fortification at present adopted in India, and that an Inspector and Director of Fortifications throughout India should be appointed, also that a corps of miners and pioneers should be established at each of our Presidencies, we enclose you a copy thereof, and direct that you take the opinion of the Commander in Chief at your Presidency on its utility and expediency, whose report thereon must be forwarded to England by the first ship that shall be dispatched after the receipt thereof, in order to assist us in our final determination on the said plan.

54. We have been obliged, from the great want of recruits for His Majesty's service, to accept of several young lads who are under the standard height in hopes and expectation of their growing in the course of the voyage; but if upon their arrival they should be declared too short for our military corps then we recommend that they be sent to Bombay to serve in our marine.

55. You will have been informed by our Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the necessity we have been under of accepting, in the present scarcity of men, of a corps of foreigners; and His Majesty having been graciously pleased to permit a regiment consisting of two battalions to be raised at Hanover in his name as Elector, we proceed to inform

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you of the terms and conditions upon which the said regiment has been entertained for the service of the East India Company, and we direct that you strictly observe and punctually fulfil the same, so far as shall depend upon you, while any of the said troops are at your settlement.

*General articles of the agreement*

1. The regiment is to remain in the service of the East India Company for the term of seven years, from the date of their arrival in the East Indies; and two years before the expiration of that time, notice must be given to His Majesty, in case the Company shall think it necessary to have the regiment in pay any longer, as that will require a new agreement.

2. In case the regiment or the whole complement of the regiment cannot be raised then the Company shall take such number of recruits as may have been raised for that purpose, and pay all expenses incurred on that account.

3. No deductions, whatever, are to be made out of the money which is agreed upon to be paid, according to the particular articles.

4. The regiment is to be put equally on the same footing as His Majesty's troops in the East Indies, with regard to pay, rank, duty, and in every other respect, nothing expected [excepted].

5. His Majesty not intending to profit in the least by granting the regiment for the service of the Company, it is, on the other hand, agreed that the Company shall pay all expenses whatever incurred on that account.

*Articles relative to the raising and forming the regiment*

1. The regiment is to consist of two battalions; each battalion of ten companies, viz., 8 fuzilier companies, one grenadier company and one company of light infantry. The complement of each company 100 men.

Staff of each battalion: 1 lieutenant colonel; 1 major; 1 lieutenant captain or captain lieutenant; 1 adjutant major, rank of lieutenant; 1 adjutant, rank of ensign; 1 judge, rank of lieutenant; 1 chaplain, 1 surgeon, 2 cadets, 5 surgeon's mates, like serjeants; 1 drum major, like serjeants; 4 musicians, as lance corporals; 1 armourer, 1 provost, as private.

Each company to consist of: 1 captain; 2 lieutenants; 1 ensign; 3 serjeants; 1 corporal; 1 clerk; 3 corporals; 2 drummers; 12 lance-corporals; 74 privates = 100.

For the service of the artillery, per battalion: 1 serjeant; 2 corporals; 12 cannoniers.



2. It being customary with the German troops to have two pieces of cannon, 3 or 6 pounders, attached to each battalion, the Company will send orders that these be provided out of their magazines, and they are to remain attached to the battalion, independent of the corps of artillery, during the time of service; at the expiration of which they are to be returned.

3. The levy-money for every man (non-commissioned officers included) is fixed at five pounds sterling. The standard of the men is to be the same as for the marching regiments in England.

*Articles relating to subsistence money, pay and allowances*

1. The subsistence money for the staff of the first battalion (the *prévôt* and the musicians only excepted), also the subsistence for the men for the service of the artillery for the whole regiment, and likewise for all officers, non-commissioned officers and drummers of the first battalion, is to commence from the first of July 1781. But with regard to the subsistence for the private, a certificate is to be produced, ascertaining the number of men raised in the month of July, and signed by the two commissioners appointed by His Majesty for that purpose, Baron Munchauson, Privy Counsellor of the War-Office at Hanover, and Major General Baron Bussche, on the receipt of which the subsistence money, for the men actually raised, is to be paid for the whole month of July, and thus it is to continue the following months, until a report be made of the whole being complete.

2. In the like manner the Company shall reimburse all expenses incurred on account of subsistence of such recruits as may have been actually made in the month of June.

3. As soon as the first battalions shall have passed in review before the officers, appointed by the Company for that purpose, the full English pay for that first battalion shall commence.

4. The stoppages are to be regulated as with the King's troops; but their distribution to be made according to the Hanoverian method.

5. The two cadets per battalion, are to receive the same pay and allowances as those sent out by the Company.

6. And whereas the regiment, from the day of its arrival, is in every respect to be equally on the same footing as His Majesty's troops in the East Indies, all papers relative thereunto, and stating the extra-allowances in garrison, as well as those called *batta* are to be transcribed and annexed to these articles as part thereof.

7. The aforementioned *batta* being intended to answer all exigencies when in the field no allowance is to be made with regard to loss of baggage.

8. A commissary from the Company is to be allowed, from time to time, to muster the battalions, agreeable to the orders that may be issued for that purpose.

9. The effective men of the regiment are to be paid according to the monthly return given into the Paymaster; and no profits allowed to the officers arising from vacancies.

*Articles concerning the clothing and equipment of the regiment*

1. A uniform is made up here as a pattern for the rest; and if they can be furnished cheaper in Germany the difference to be allowed to the Company. All fire-arms, swords and belts, grenadier-caps and all accoutrements, as specified in the list enclosed, drums, colours, &ca., to be paid for by the Company according to the accounts which will be produced thereof.

2. The camp-equipage is furnished by the Company in the East Indies; yet as it is thought necessary to take on board 1 officer's tent, 8 privates' tents, and one bell tent per ship, they are to be provided, before the embarkation, at the expence of the Company; for which purpose the accounts thereof are likewise to be produced.

*Articles concerning the transport of the regiment*

1. All officers are to be allowed a free passage, and the privates are to be put on the same establishment as His Majesty's troops; wherefore a copy of the paper regulating the said establishment is to be annexed to these articles.

2. The passage for two women per company is to be granted, but no children to be carried over.

3. The Company will hereafter provide for the return of the regiment. The passage for officers that return by command or permission of His Majesty, as likewise the transport of non-commissioned officers and privates that may have served their time, must be at the Company's expense.

*Articles providing for sick, wounded and invalid*

1. With regard to the cure of wounded and sick men, hospitals, medicines, etc., particular articles agreeable to the exigencies of the service, are to be drawn up. These not having yet been adjusted with regard to the King's troops in the East Indies it is agreed that His Majesty's Electoral troops shall be put upon the same footing as his British troops in that country.

2. Officers obliged to return on account of wounds or illness, with proper certificates, are to have a free passage granted by the Company, and to receive one year's pay gratification on their return. In case wounds have rendered them invalids they are to be allowed half pay for life, according to their rank in the service; provided an oath, prescribed by the Deed of Settlement with Lord Clive, be made by

A lieutenant colonel that he is not worth	...	£ 3000
A major	... ..	2500
A captain	... ..	2000
A lieutenant	... ..	1000
An ensign	... ..	750

3. Invalids in the service shall be put upon the establishment of the invalids in the East Indies, during the time of the capitulation, at the expiration of which the Company is to grant them a free passage; and on their arrival in England they are to receive four months' full pay to return to their country, where they will be entitled to a pension, to be paid every six months, amounting to about four pence three farthings a day, upon a proper certificate being produced that they are alive.

*Article relating to new clothing*

The regiment is to be new clothed once a year like His Majesty's troops; and the transport of the clothing to be at the Company's expence from the time of shipping at Hambro', or any other place.

*Articles concerning the command of the regiment  
and its jurisdiction*

1. With regard to the command of this corps the regiment is, in every respect, to be on an equal footing with His Majesty's troops, the promotion of commissioned officers depending entirely upon His Majesty's will and pleasure.

2. And with regard to the military jurisdiction a particular regulation thereof is approved and annexed to these articles.

(L.S.) Jean Frederic Charles de Alvensleben	Lau. Sullivan	(L.S.)
(L.S.) William von Freytag	Wm. James	(L.S.)

*Regulations concerning the two battalions of our Electoral troops  
during the time of their service in the East Indies*

1. The two battalions are to be governed by their own martial law, and in the manner prescribed by our ordonnances in the Electorate under their commanding officers.

2. In the mean time we confer to the commanding officer in field or garrison the power of cognizance in misdemeanors relative

to the service in field or garrison, viz., upon guards, pickets, commands, etc., with regard to commissioned as well as non-commissioned officers and privates in all cases where the fact is so clear as not to require a great formality of trial, and which only amount to a short arrest with respect to commissioned officers; and comparatively to the usual punishments for non-commissioned officers and privates.

3. Our British Commanding Officer in the East Indies must however, in the abovementioned cases, inflict no other punishment than what is usual and customary amongst our Electoral troops.

4. Should a crime, in field or garrison service, be committed which deserves a hard corporal punishment, or punishment of death, and a judicial examination and inquisition be required, then the British Commanding General or Officer may put the delinquent under arrest; but he must deliver him up to the Commanding Officer of our Electoral troops, in order to proceed against him according to the precepts of their martial law. And the sentence, before it be carried into execution, is to be laid before the Commanding General or Commanding Officer, who, in case the sentence should be found inadequate to the crime or it should be deemed necessary to aggravate the punishment on account of particular circumstances occurring, has a right to order a court-martial to be held on that subject. Of all which transactions hereafter a report is to be made to us.

5. Supposing the possibility that the commanding officers on both sides could not agree upon the subject, then a report of it is to be made to us, and the case referred to our further pleasure.

6. In order that all misunderstandings or disputes, which may happen between non-commissioned officers and privates of the two different nations, may be adjusted in the shortest manner, and in order that a mutual confidence and good harmony may always subsist, the commanders, on both sides, are to appoint two officers for the purpose of enquiring into such disputes, who are either to settle the affairs themselves, or, if necessary, to make a report thereof to their respective commanders.

7. In general our Electoral troops serving in the East Indies are to enjoy the same privileges, in every respect, which are allowed to our British troops there on service.

56. We are sorry to observe, notwithstanding our express command that His Majesty's forces should be properly accommodated with barracks, or places to lodge in, when not in the field, and that in general the same attention should be paid to their welfare as to that of the Company's own troops, there should have been any ground of complaint on the above accounts from Fort St. George. Copy of a letter from Lord Macleod to the Secretary at War, and of his letter to us on the subject, are transmitted for your further information; and we now most positively



enjoin you to take effectual care that every proper and necessary accommodation be made for the reception of His Majesty's troops on their arrival at your Presidency.

57. You will observe by the 17th section of an Act passed in the last session of Parliament, of which you receive copies by this conveyance, that the Company are to pay two lacks of current rupees per annum for each regiment of 1000 men, and in that proportion for a greater or less number sent at their requisition to the East Indies for the Company's service, over and above the extraordinaries now borne and defrayed by the Company, and that the pay of the troops already sent is to be computed from the 24th of June 1781, and of those to be hereafter sent from the time of their embarkation. You will therefore take care that the subsistence of His Majesty's forces at your settlement be provided for, and regularly paid to the orders of the officers commanding each respective regiment. The remainder of allowances is to be paid by the Company according to such regulations as shall be settled between the Paymaster General of His Majesty's forces, the Secretary at War and the Court of Directors. This article has been already [under] consideration; and we have agreed generally that the current rupee shall be valued at 2s 1d; and that the remainder of the allowance to be paid by the Company to His Majesty's troops shall, if agreeable to the Paymaster General and the Secretary at War, be remitted by bills of exchange to be drawn by the Governor General and Council upon the Court of Directors; and that the subsistence money advanced to the King's troops now serving in India to be computed from the 24th day of June last, and also of those now proceeding to India shall, if approved by the Paymaster General and Secretary at War, be in like manner repaid by bills of exchange to be drawn by the Governor General and Council of Bengal, payable at 365 days' sight, provided the state of the Company's disposable money in England shall be such as shall enable them to pay the said bills of exchange after providing for a dividend of 8 per cent per annum to the proprietors and not otherwise, which conditional words must be inserted in all such bills of exchange; nor must they be drawn upon any other terms whatever. This is the present state of the business; if any alterations take place you will be duly informed thereof; if not you will consider the above as an agreement, and be governed accordingly until you shall receive our further instructions on the subject.

58. We have paid due attention to the case of military officers in India who complain of hardship in having done the duty of absentees, when such absentees are permitted to return to India with the rank which they would have held had they not resigned the Company's service; and we have determined, that no military officer returning from India on private affairs, or for any other cause, except for the recovery of health, nor in such case except it shall have been judged absolutely necessary for the preservation of life, (which must be attested by the principal surgeon of the Presidency under his hand and seal) shall henceforth be re-admitted into the Company's service in India with higher rank than he enjoyed at the time of his resignation; and even in cases where



want of health is the lone cause of resignation, officers shall not be allowed after long absence, and at very distant periods, to return with the rank which they would have held if no such resignation had happened. But indulgence of this kind shall be restricted to three years' residence here, or to a reasonable space of time, to be computed from the day of resignation to the day of re-admission into the service, of which you shall be particularly advised whenever any military officer shall return to India under the above circumstances.

59. As our Commander in Chief has represented that the dismissal of officers who were originally entertained as cadets without the permission of the Court of Directors would be so diametrically opposite to the good of the service that to adhere to the letter of the Court's orders would, in the present situation of things, be a dangerous measure, and that if put in force he could not be answerable for the service, we must acquiesce in the appointment of those officers; but as we shall not fail to send a sufficient number of cadets to keep our establishment of officers complete we hereby renew the prohibition of making cadets, or admitting any person in our military service, except by the authority of the Court of Directors.

60. It is with great satisfaction we have received a letter from our Chief and Factors at Anjengo, dated the 6th of August 1781, enclosing extract of a letter from Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote to Colonel Braithwaite, dated the 6th July, containing the very agreeable information of the success of our army on the Coast, the 1st of that month, in a general action with Hyder Ally Cawn, between Porto Novo and Mootepollam, in which 4000 of the enemy were killed including many of their principal officers, and Meer Saib mortally wounded<sup>7</sup>.

61. By the same channel we learn that the *Swallow* packet reached Madrass the 22nd of June, and the *Rodney* the 12th of July; that the army commanded by Sir Eyre Coote passed Permacoil the 18th of July, with a view to effect a junction with a large detachment of Bengal troops which, with three battalions from the Northern Circars, had been for sometime on their way to Madrass where, by the last advices, they were nearly arrived.

62. Our Governor and Select Committee of Bombay also inform us, in their letter of the 28th of July last, that by a letter from the Governor General and Council, dated the 7th of May, they were advised that an engagement had been formed with the Government of Berar; that the principal points were for a body of cavalry to join Colonel Pearse's<sup>8</sup> detachment and assist in the war against Hyder Ally, for the Berar army immediately to leave the province of Orissa, for an expedition against Gurrahmandulla to be aided by the Company's troops; and that another article was preliminary to a still nearer connexion of the two Governments, fixing also the means by which it might be effected.

63. In this imperfect state of information we are unable to judge of the propriety of the engagement entered into with the Rajah of Berar,

and equally so to issue orders on the subject, because long before this can reach you we apprehend it must have had its operation; we hope the event will justify the measure and manifest the wisdom of the proceedings. We cannot, however, sufficiently commend the active zeal and vigorous exertion of our Governor General and Council, which have so effectually contributed to reverse the scene in the Carnatic. The hearty concurrence of Sir Eyre Coote, our Commander in Chief, his readiness to proceed to the Coast and to undertake service, big with danger and difficulties, when the welfare of his country and the interests of the Company required it, were truly worthy his character and the high trust reposed in him; and the consequences, so far as hath come to our knowledge, have even exceeded the benefits expected to arise from the united efforts of superior ability and good conduct, and in no instance does this more evidently appear than in the revival of that military spirit, which had been depressed by recent and most alarming misfortunes, and in the restoration of that proper degree of confidence in the Commander in Chief which must have inspired our troops when such incredible numbers of resolute enemies were obliged to yield to the superior bravery and steady perseverance of our comparatively small army. We trust the General has been equally successful in his future operations, and that with the reinforcements, which we have reason to hope arrived in time to cooperate, Sir Eyre Coote has been enabled to act upon the offensive, and with effect both against Hyder and the Dutch on the coast of Coromandel.

64. The success of General Goddard<sup>9</sup>, particularly against Bassein, is highly agreeable to us; the last event adds much to the honor of that excellent officer and the troops under his command. We embrace the opportunity afforded by this favorable turn of affairs to inculcate the sentiments, so often communicated to you, that a safe and speedy peace with all Indian powers is our primary consideration. This must never be forgotten, nor must any step be taken but such as shall have a direct tendency to accomplish this desirable object.

65. It is also necessary to repeat to you that France continues vigorous preparations for India. You are therefore to be well on your guard. The stations you hold are important. The welfare of your country and the prosperity of the East India Company depend, in an eminent degree, upon your vigilance, ability, activity and prudence in which we repose the greatest confidence.

66. We are concerned to find that considerable quantities of salt petre are brought from India to Europe in neutral vessels. It is your duty in time of war to prevent our enemies from obtaining any of that article in India; and you will be particularly careful that no greater quantity than has been usual be delivered, during the present troubles, to the subjects of any neutral power or state whatever.

67. It is needless to enter upon an examination of the proposed treaty with the Dutch for the Tinnevelly country. Nothing but the most desperate necessity could have warranted such cession of territory



Eyre Coote



to the Dutch. However, as Great Britain and the States General are at open war, every effort must be continued to guard against, and, if possible, to reduce and destroy the power of the Dutch in India.

68. Having considered the several applications which have been made to us for the payment of the salaries of the Governor General and Council in the same manner as was ordered to be made to the judges of the Supreme Court, and taken the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor General and of our Standing Council thereon, we direct that the salaries of the Governor General and Council be paid in the like manner, and at the rate we ordered the salaries of the judges of the Supreme Court by 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th paragraphs of our Separate Letter of the 15th December 1775.

69. The inattention of our Governor General and Council to the orders we gave in the 81st paragraph of our letter of 30th March 1774, respecting the estate of Captain Summers deceased, has been inconvenient and expensive to the Company. We see by your consultations that the letter was read in Council 20th October 1774, and on 24th of the same month referred to the Sub Treasurer to report the state of the account of Captain Summers's estate, and from this time it does not appear that any notice has been taken of our orders.

70. But by your cash account we find that in February 1775 the bonds given for account of Captain Summers's estate to the amount of current rupees 27,143-6-3 for principal and interest were paid off. We further find that on the 28th March 1777, Mr. Hastings paid into our treasury current rupees 29,196-12 on account of the estate of Captain Henry Summers, and finally it appears by your consultations that on 24th January 1780, the last mentioned sum was ordered to be paid out to Messrs Francis and Ducarrel who claimed it as attornies to the estate of Captain Henry Summers. Why the money was paid out in 1775, afterwards received into our treasury in 1777, and again paid out in January 1780, does not appear. We can only say that this money having become the property of the Company by virtue of the deed of assignment referred to, and sent you with our said letter of 30th March 1774, and the Company being answerable for it, the money ought not to have been paid out of our treasury; but, in conformity to the assignment and our orders, you should have kept the money and made up the account of Captain Summers's estate and sent us a certificate thereof.

71. The neglect of our Governor General and Council in this respect occasioned a suit being brought against the Company in the year 1779, upon the covenants contained in the deed of assignment: the Company were under great difficulty in defending the suit, not knowing whether the money was or was not in their hands or how they were to make up the account. The result of this suit, after various proceedings, has been that the Company have been obliged to pay the demand of the executors of Trinder, under the assignment, to the amount of £2,937-10-4 besides costs.



16th February 1780: the Company paid in part of the demand under a rule of Court . . . . .	2471 17 0
2nd July 1781: the Company paid the remainder of the demand settled by the Master at . . . . .	465 13 4
	<hr/>
	2937 10 4

which sums the Company are now in disburse, besides £38-3 paid for the cost of the executors of Trinder, of the Company's own costs and the interest of the money advanced.

The way the account is made up is as follows:

12th February 1775: cash in the Com- pany's treasury on account of the estate of Captain Summers by account then made up current rupees 27143 at 2s. 1d. is . . . . .		2827 7 11
Deduct principal of Trinder's bond	£600 0 0	
Interest 1 year 6 months and 13 days from 30th July 1773 to 12th February 1775 at 5 per cent . . . . .	46 1 2	
	<hr/>	646 1 2
Due from the Company to Trinder's executors to be paid in England according to the assignment . . . .		2181 6 9
5 years' interest thereon at 8 per cent from 12th February 1775 to 12th February 1780 . . . . .	872 10 3	
Deduct 8 months' interest at 8 per cent allowed for remittances . . . . .	116 6 8	
	<hr/>	756 3 7
		<hr/>
		2937 10 4

72. In strictness we might require to be reimbursed all our damages and costs, but as we have no reason to think that there has been any thing intentionally wrong in the business we will be content to have it settled in the following equitable manner, and direct that you require payment accordingly, viz., that Mr. Hastings should pay interest at the rate of 8 per cent for the 27,143 rupees, whilst the money was in his hands from February 1775 to 28th March 1777, allowing him as a part of such interest the sum of rupees 2,053, which he paid into our treasury in March 1777 more than he received from thence in February 1775, and that Messrs. Francis and Ducarel should pay back the 29,196 rupees received by them

in January 1780, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. This mode of settlement appears to us to be perfectly equitable in respect to Messrs. Hastings, Francis and Ducarel who cannot complain of any hardship in only paying interest for the money whilst it was in their hands.

73. You will observe that by the 29th section of the Act of the 21st of His Present Majesty for establishing an agreement between the public and the Company, "the Company's servants and other British subjects resident in India are prohibited lending money to foreign companies or foreign European merchants, and from purchasing goods on their accounts, and from being concerned in such transactions and from giving credit by bills of exchange on persons in Europe." This prohibition took its rise from well-grounded information of many British subjects having been concerned in transactions of this nature, to the very great prejudice of the Company. Offenders against this Act may be prosecuted for a high misdemean[our] and the punishment upon conviction will be very severe.

74. We hope that the legislative prohibition (independent of the dread of punishment) will be sufficient to stop the mischief, but lest it should not it behoves us and our servants in the government of our affairs in India to be very attentive to every transaction of this nature. If any persons shall be daring enough, in defiance of the law, either by themselves or as agents for others, to aid other companies or foreign merchants in their European trade they will incur our highest displeasure and resentment, and besides such punishment as we can inflict ourselves, we are determined to prosecute them at law with the utmost rigor.

75. That no one may plead ignorance of the law or of our resolution to enforce a due observance of it, we direct that you cause public notice to be given thereof; and if you shall discover any persons in our service being concerned in such transactions, we direct that you forthwith suspend them, and if such discovery fall on licensed traders, you are to declare their licences void, withdraw our protection from them and require them to return to England.

76. In all such cases, we direct that you collect the evidence on which your charge shall be founded, and inform us thereof at large that we may be enabled to take proper legal measures against the offenders.

77. This is a business of so much importance to the Company that we must direct you will use your utmost exertions therein. It is not probable that transactions of this kind will be avowed and carried on in an open manner, wherefore it may be right to encourage those who have knowledge thereof to give information to this end. We direct that you will cause it to be made known that every person who shall discover any offender or offenders against this Act, so that he or they may be prosecuted thereon, will merit our favor and future protection and may be assured of promotion in our service.

78. We have given the like orders with these to our other Presidencies and to our supra cargos in China, and we direct that you will not only exert yourselves to prevent offences and punish offenders at your own Presidency but that you give your utmost assistance therein at other places. For this purpose you are constantly, by the earliest opportunity, to apprise our Governors and Councils at our other Presidencies and our supra cargos in China of what you shall know, or have reason to suspect, hath been or shall be intended to be done there in order to enable them to investigate and take proper proceedings thereon.

79. As your proceedings relative to copper mines and coinage are but lately received we shall not, by the present conveyance, enter upon that minute investigation of the subject which its importance deserves; but we do not hesitate a moment to declare that the contracts entered into with Mr. Prinsep are highly prejudicial to our interest.

80. If it were proper under any circumstances to open mines in Bengal it must be on account of the Company alone, as the authority necessary for that purpose and the consequences must be too important to render it prudent to invest any individual or number of individuals with such authority.

81. In regard to coinage by an individual it is also utterly improper. The Company are, and ought to be, accountable, so far as can be the case, for the purity and propriety of the coin of Bengal. Their responsibility cannot be transferred, and consequently their authority must not, on any account whatever, be delegated.

82. We observe in the original agreement with Mr. Prinsep a power of annulling or suspending the same at the expiration of three years is reserved to us. We therefore direct that you forthwith give him notice of our determination in no event to continue the contract beyond the term of three years, and require Mr. Prinsep immediately to surrender the grants or contracts for mining and coinage; and we do hereby positively direct that from the receipt of this letter no individual, whatever, shall be suffered to open or work any copper mine or interfere in any manner with the copper coinage.

83. We are sorry to be obliged to disapprove of the above measures in terms so strong and positive because we do not perceive that you have been influenced by other motives than what appeared to you to be the interest of the Company; but we direct that in future every engagement of such importance be referred to our ultimate decision, except in cases that will not admit of delay.

84. We have not been inattentive to your proceedings respecting the appointment of Sir Elijah Impey<sup>10</sup> to be Judge of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, but as that appointment is now under the consideration of a Committee of the House of Commons, and as the Committee have not yet made their report to the House, we think it proper to wait

the determination of Parliament on the subject, when you shall, so soon as possible, be advised thereof for your guidance.

85. If the persons sent out as recruits, but represented by you to be of the rank of gentlemen and are now serving as a corp of volunteers attached to the artillery in the detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Pearce, have behaved to your satisfaction we authorize you to place them at the end of this year's list of cadets.

86. As the number of His Majesty's troops destined for Fort St. George will be so very considerable we have directed the President and Council there to forward to you all the Company's recruits to be sent out this season, except so many as can be accommodated on board the *Royal Bishop* or other proper conveyances for Bombay.

87. His Majesty having been graciously pleased to order a regiment of light dragoons dismounted, and two regiments of foot, to proceed to the East Indies for the protection and defence of the Company's possessions we hereby inform you they embark on board the ships now under dispatch for India.

88. Instructions have been given by our Chairman and Deputy Chairman to provide horses to be in readiness for the dragoons. in order to render them fit for immediate service upon their arrival, and we rely upon these instructions having been duly complied with.

89. The strength of the regiments and lists of the officers are as follow, viz.,

*Establishment of a regiment of light dragoons commanded by  
Colonel Sir John Burgoyne, Baronet*

1 colonel and captain; 1 lieutenant colonel and captain; 1 major and captain; 3 captains more; 6 lieutenants; 6 cornets; 6 quarter masters; 1 chaplain; 1 adjutant; 1 surgeon; 1 surgeon's mate; 24 serjeants; 24 corporals; 6 trumpeters; 6 hautboys; 324 private men=412.

*Establishment of a regiment of foot, commanded by  
Colonel Robert Sandford*

1 colonel and captain; 1 lieutenant colonel and captain; 1 major and captain; 9 captains more; 26 lieutenants; 10 ensigns; 1 chaplain; 1 adjutant; 1 quarter master; 1 surgeon; 2 surgeon's mates; 60 serjeants; 60 corporals; 24 drummers; 2 fifers; 1200 private men=1400.

*Colonel William Rowley's Regiment*

Of the same establishment [as above].

*List of the officers of the Twenty-third Regiment of Light Dragoons*

		<i>Rank in the</i>
	<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Army</i>
Colonel—Sir John Burgoyne, Bart. ...	24 Sept. 1781	29 Aug. 1777 M. Genl. E. Indies 1st June 178[1]
Lieut. Col.—John Floyd ...	24 Sept. 1781	
Major—Thomas Nash ...	24 Sept. 1781	
Captains—Jonathan Thomas	24 Sept. 1781	28 June 1779
John Beckwith ...	27 Sept. 1781	
Thos. Crewe Dodd	28 Sept. 1781	
Capt. Lieut.—John Petley ...	29 Sept. 1781	
Lieutenants—Wm. Gilbert		
Child ...	24 Sept. 1781	26 Feb. 1780
William Walton	25 Sept. 1781	23 Mar. [1780]
Guy Henry		
Crawford ...	27 Sept. 1781	
T. J. Venables		
Hinde ...	28 Sept. 1781	
William Sage ...	3 Dec. 1781	9 Oct. [1778]
Cornets—George Williams ...	24 Sept. 1781	
John Campbell ...	25 Sept. 1781	
Thomas Eyre ...	26 Sept. 1781	
John Horsefall ...	27 Sept. 1781	
John Jaffrey ...	28 Sept. 1781	
Robert Anstey ...	29 Sept. 1781	
Adjutant—Robert Hilton ...	24 Sept. 1781	
Surgeon—John McCulloch ...	24 Sept. 1781	

*List of the officers of the 101st Regiment of Foot*

Colonel—Robert Sandford ...	24 Sept. 1781	Maj. Gen. 19 Oct. 1781
Lieut. Colonel—Andrew Gordon ...	24 Sept. 1781	
Major—Thomas Adams ...	24 Sept. 1781	Lieut. Col. 29 Aug. 1777
Captains—Athol Douglas ...	15 Sept. 1781	9 Apr. 1781
Francis Fuller ...	16 Sept. 1781	9 Apr. 1781
Henry St. George Cole ...	17 Sept. 1781	10 Apr. 1781
George Freer ...	18 Sept. 1781	23 Apr. 1781
Smollet Campbell	19 Sept. 1781	10 May 1781
Charles Baillie ...	20 Sept. 1781	8 June 1781
John Jackson ...	21 Sept. 1781	17 June 1781
Capt. Lieut.—Charles Robertson	24 Sept. 1781	
Lieutenants—Anthony Ellwood	12 Sept. 1781	9 Apr. 1781
John Shaw ...	13 Sept. 1781	10 Apr. 1781



		<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Rank in the</i>	<i>Army</i>
Lieutenants—Richard Jen-				
nings ...	14	Sept. 1781		10 Apr. 1781
John Napier ...	15	Sept. 1781		10 Apr. 1781
William Innes	16	Sept. 1781		11 Apr. 1781
John Moore ...	17	Sept. 1781		24 Apr. 1781
John Brisset ...	18	Sept. 1781		2 June 1781
Packenham				
Beatly ...	20	Sept. 1781		19 May 1781
Henry Dunn ...	21	Sept. 1781		22 Dec. 1777
Robert Wood ...	22	Sept. 1781		18 June 1781
Gavin King ...	23	Sept. 1781		7 June 1779
Breon Bordes	24	Sept. 1781		19 Aug. 1780
William Rolfe				
Elsden ...	25	Sept. 1781		
William Roberts	26	Sept. 1781		
Henry Carey				
Fanning ...	27	Sept. 1781		
Thomas Fair-				
lough ...	28	Sept. 1781		
Henry Pember-				
ton ...	29	Sept. 1781		7 July 1781
Archibald Ing-				
ram ...	29	Sept. 1781		
William Mc.				
Gillwray ...	30	Sept. 1781		
John Braith-				
waite ...	1	Oct. 1781		
Mungo Noble	13	Dec. 1781		
Ensigns—Dugald Campbell	20	Sept. 1781		10 May 1781
Charles Ross ...	21	Sept. 1781		10 May 1781
John Puseley ...	22	Sept. 1781		8 June 1781
William Montgo-				
mery ...	23	Sept. 1781		17 June 1781
Thomas Howell ...	24	Sept. 1781		
William Ryan ...	7	Nov. 1781		30 June 1781
William Dane ...	8	Nov. 1781		26 July 1781
James Irwin ...	14	Nov. 1781		
Adjutant—Edmond Coghlan	24	Sept. 1781		
Quarter Master—Andrew				
Pallas ...	24	Sept. 1781		
Surgeon—Girdlestone ...	24	Sept. 1781		

*List of the officers of the 102nd Regiment of Foot*

Colonel—William Rowley ...	24	Sept. 1781	Maj. Gen.	19 Oct. 17[81]
Lieut. Colonel—Gordon				
Forbes ...	24	Sept. 1781		
Major—Thomas Jones ...	24	Sept. 1781	Lt. Col.	29 Aug. 1777
Captains—Thomas Armstrong	17	Sept. 1781		21 May 1781

	<i>Rank in the</i>		<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Army</i>
Captains—Thomas Honey-				
borne	...	19 Sept. 1781		28 May 1781
Godfrey Feather-				
stone	...	20 Sept. 1781		28 May 1781
George Browne		21 Sept. 1781		3 June 1781
Arthur Pyne	...	22 Sept. 1781		5 June 1781
George Hallam	...	24 Oct. 1781		27 Dec. 1778
Richard				
Gardiner	...	6 Nov. 1781		
Capt. Lieut.—John Church		24 Sept. 1781		
Lieutenants—Robert Gale		12 Sept. 1781		22 May 1781
Edward				
Sweetman	...	14 Sept. 1781		24 May 1781
George Mannix		15 Sept. 1781		26 May 1781
Harris Power		16 Sept. 1781		28 May 1781
Richard				
Dobbins	...	17 Sept. 1781		29 May 1781
Henry Munro		18 Sept. 1781		29 May 1781
William Iles		19 Sept. 1781		5 June 1781
George Power		20 Sept. 1781		12 Nov. 1778
Mathew Lalor		21 Sept. 1781		26 July 1781
Thomas				
Robinson	...	22 Sept. 1781		8 Aug. 1781
Hugh Allgood				
Hansard	...	23 Sept. 1781		20 Sept. 1781
Thomas Stam-				
ford	...	24 Sept. 1781		
Morgan Stanley		25 Sept. 1781		
Madlycott Cane		26 Sept. 1781		
Laurence Heron		27 Sept. 1781		
James William				
Unwin	...	28 Sept. 1781		
William Pat-				
terson	...	5 Dec. 1781		
John Green	...	6 Dec. 1781		
John Green	...	7 Dec. 1781		20 May 1781
Andrew Arm-				
strong	...	8 Dec. 1781		
Ensigns—Robert Gregg	...	21 Sept. 1781		1 Sept. 1781
Edward Lucas	...	22 Sept. 1781		28 May 1781
Edward Loyd	...	23 Sept. 1781		3 June 1781
Tanfield	...	24 Sept. 1781		25 July 1781
Thomas Paterson	...	25 Sept. 1781		
John Thomas	...	21 Nov. 1781		3 May 1780
Dennis Kelly				
Armstrong	...	12 Dec. 1781		
Mathew Jenour	...	14 Dec. 1781		

	<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Rank in the</i>	<i>Army</i>
Chaplain—Fras. Coleman			
Negus ...	24 Sept. 1781		
Adjutant—Thomas Dwyer ...	24 Sept. 1781		
Quarter Master—Benjamin			
Garnet	24 Sept. 1781		
Surgeon—Thomas Kerr ...	24 Sept. 1781		

90. In order to regulate the embarkation of the troops we have deputed George Cuming, Richard Hall and John Smith Esquires, of the Court of Directors, to proceed to Portsmouth, who will also acquaint you of the number of men embarked on each respective ship and of such other circumstances as they shall judge necessary for your information.

91. As the Company have, on former occasions, made such additions to the pay of His Majesty's troops serving in the East Indies as have rendered the whole of their allowances equal to the pay and *batta* of our own troops it is our pleasure that the like additions be now made, which will be in the following proportions, viz.,

To the captain of each company—2 shillings a day.

Lieutenants—1 shilling a day.

Ensigns—1 shilling a day.

Serjeants—2*d.* each a day.

Corporals—2*d.* each a day.

Drummers—2*d.* each a day.

Private men—2*d.* each a day.

92. You are also to pay to the following officers the allowance set against their names, viz.,

To each chaplain—1 shilling a day.

Surgeon—1 shilling a day.

Quarter Master—1 shilling a day, and

Surgeon's mates—10*d.* each.

93. In regard to allowance of forage, wood, and straw in the field, and of fire and candle in garrison, if such allowances be at any time made to our own troops, our order is that His Majesty's British and Hanoverian troops be put exactly on the same footing; but no innovations are to be made nor new and unusual charges introduced on any account whatever.

94. It is our meaning that the field allowances to be made to His Majesty's British and Hanoverian officers shall be equal to the *batta* allowed to our own officers in the field.

95. If any money, stores or provisions shall be advanced or furnished by you to His Majesty's troops over and above the allowances granted by our orders and of the amount required by law to be paid by the Company, you must take care to adjust your accounts thereof with the proper officers, and to have them duly certified; you are also to take

bills on the Board of Ordnance or on such of His Majesty's officers in England whose province it may be to pay such bills or to allow such accounts.

96. The troops now sent are designed to proceed immediately to the Presidency of Fort St. George; but if the publick service shall require them at any of our other settlements due care must be taken to provide them with necessary accommodations for that purpose.

97. It is our express order, that you treat the officers of His Majesty's British and Hanoverian forces with every due mark of respect; and that you take especial care to cultivate a good understanding and to preserve the most perfect harmony between the King's and Company's troops, during the time the former shall remain at your settlement.

98. No officer or officers in His Majesty's service in India shall be paid any sum or sums of money in advance, except the amount of one month's allowance authorized by us to be made to such officer or officers.

99. You are to take care that His Majesty's British forces and the Hanoverian regiment be properly accommodated with barracks, or places to lodge in, when at your settlement and not in the field; and, in general, that the same attention be paid to their welfare as to that of our own troops.

100. The commanders of our ships are paid the following sums by us for dieting at their respective tables the officers of His Majesty's British troops and the officers belonging to the 15th Regiment of Hanoverians, viz.,

For the commanding officer	...	...	£185
For the lieutenant colonel	...	...	£105
For a major	...	...	£ 85
For a captain	...	...	£ 85
For all other commissioned and staff officers with surgeon's mates	...	...	£ 65 each

101. We have agreed to pay the owners of the ships £15 per head in England for the accommodation of the private men. We have also provided a quantity of brandy, vinegar, soap, sugar, lemon juice and essence of malt on board each ship, and ordered the said articles to be distributed, from time to time, amongst the soldiers in such quantities as may be necessary; and we direct that on the landing of any of the troops at your settlement you examine whether this regulation has been duly observed, and report what may be necessary for our information on the subject.

102. And upon the arrival of every ship, you must not fail to enquire whether the officers have been properly accommodated, and the private men humanely treated by our commanders; your reports on these

points must be full and impartial as we are determined that improper conduct in any of our commanders, respecting the troops on board, shall be attended with dismissal from the service.

103. No officer in His Majesty's service in India shall receive the Company's allowance of additional pay in two capacities, except the adjutant and quarter master; but those officers on account of their extra trouble and expense may receive the allowance due to their rank as officers, and also to their respective offices.

104. We have given strict orders that the surgeons of our ships shall attend upon and take all possible care of the health of the military officers and private men during the voyage, and if, upon examination, it shall appear that this order has been duly attended to, the surgeons are to receive the same head money for this service as is usually allowed for our own recruits.

105. We think it necessary, for your information, to furnish you with a statement of the full pay and subsistence of the regiment of light dragoons commanded by Sir John Burgoyne, and also with an account of the allowance which is made to dragoons in England under the denomination of grass money.

106. And as it will be found that the subsistence for Colonel Burgoyne's regiment exceeds the allowance settled by Parliament to be paid by the Company for that number of men, the Secretary at War has desired us to give orders that their subsistence, agreeably to the account now transmitted, be regularly issued to the said regiment in India; and that the difference between the amount thereof and the allowance to be paid by the Company for that number of men be defrayed out of the balance arising on the allowances to be paid by the Company for the King's regiments of infantry employed in the Company's service. This request of the Secretary at War has been agreed to, and we therefore direct that the subsistence money for Sir John Burgoyne's regiment be regularly issued to him in India, provided it do not exceed the balances aforesaid arising on the allowances to be paid to the infantry, that an exact account be kept thereof, and that such account, with the difference between the sums so advanced, and the amount due by law for the number of effective men in the said regiment, at the time of making up the account, be regularly and frequently transmitted to you for your information and guidance, to enable you to deduct the surplus paid to General Burgoyne's regiment from the amount of bills to be drawn on account of the regiments of infantry.

107. We have directed our President and Council of Fort St. George to send you frequent and exact musters of His Majesty's regiments of infantry, ascertaining the number of men in each regiment separately, the amount of subsistence money advanced them, the difference between such amount and the sums due by law, according to the effective strength of each regiment at the time of muster, and the sum total to be drawn for by you in discharge of the amount required by law to be paid by the Company annually.



108. As it is of the utmost importance for us to be regularly informed of the state of the army at each Presidency we direct that besides the general returns of all the Presidencies transmitted by our Commander in Chief in India complete lists of the officers and returns of the troops on your military establishment, specifying where stationed and the numbers wanted to compleat the establishment, be forwarded by every possible opportunity for our particular information.

109. In the Court's letter of the 23rd of December 1778, you were informed that, as the sum of £800 had been formerly allowed for defraying the expenses of house rent and of a table to military officers in His Majesty's service in lieu of 40 shillings per day, which had been formerly paid to the colonel of a regiment for such purposes, you were therefore authorized to make the like allowance to Lord Macleod and his officers, to commence upon their arrival and be continued during the time which His Majesty's troops should remain in India, which sum was to be in full consideration of all expences whatever to be incurred by the Company on account of the said officers, except their *batta* in the field.

110. The 21st of March 1780, the President of our Select Committee at Fort St. George represented that as Lord Macleod's allowances from the Company, as Colonel Commandant of His Majesty's 73rd Regiment, fell considerably short of the allowances granted to captains of the squadron he (the President) recommended that Lord Macleod should be paid the sum which captains of the navy receive from the Company, until the Court's pleasure should be known; which being approved by our said Select Committee was ordered accordingly.

111. An Act of Parliament having now been passed, by which the Company are required to pay a large sum annually for every regiment of His Majesty's troops serving in the East Indies, over and above the extraordinaries borne and defrayed by the Company, we are under the disagreeable necessity of disallowing, and we hereby disallow and annul, the grant of the additional sum of two hundred pounds per annum added by our late Select Committee of Fort St. George to the allowances authorized by the Court of Directors to be paid to Lord Macleod, as Commanding Officer of the 73rd Regiment; and we also direct that if the like indulgence has been granted to any other colonel of the King's troops in India it be forthwith discontinued, and that no such extra charge be incurred by the Company after the receipt of this our order at your Presidency.

112. And although the Court of Directors, by letter dated the 5th of April 1776, approved the extra allowances which had been made in India to Sir Edward Hughes, and to the captains of His Majesty's ships, yet as circumstances are now altered by the late Act of Parliament, and as the like indulgence if extended to all captains of the navy in India would amount to a considerable sum over and above the heavy charges already borne by the Company, we think it proper to restrict the allowances to be made in future to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels in India, and to the captains of the navy while on

shore, to such allowances as were made to the Admirals Watson and Pocock, and to the captains of the respective squadrons; which were for the admiral 40s. a day for his table, and £32 per month for all other charges, and to each captain of the navy £7 per month, in full of all allowances whatever, house rent excepted; and we direct that no greater sums be paid to the Commander in Chief and captains of His Majesty's ships and vessels during the time of their being on service in the East Indies, unless an increase shall hereafter be authorized by the Court of Directors.

113. Besides the above allowances the Admiral or Commander in Chief of the Navy in India must be accommodated with a proper house, and two houses must be provided for the captains; but be the number of captains ever so great we cannot allow more than two houses for their reception on shore at the expence of the Company.

114. We have read with great concern that part of your Publick Letter of the 29th November 1780 relative to the defalcations of paymasters.

115. In the 38th paragraph of the Court's instructions dated the 29th of March 1774, it was ordered that all paymasters, and other persons who might apply for money in advance, should at the same time specify whether they had any of the Company's money in hand, and to what amount, and also the particular services to which the money applied for was to be appropriated; and it was expressly ordered that no advance should be made from the treasury upon any application which should be deficient in any of the circumstances abovementioned.

116. If these instructions had been regularly attended to, from the institution of the late government to the time of discovery, it must have been impossible for the balances in the hands of paymasters to have risen to the alarming amount specified in your letter, and for which they now stand defaulters. We observe that you have taken such measures as appeared most likely to recover so much as possible of the said balances, and must rely upon your care and assiduity not only totally to prevent the like transactions in future but to render the present deficiency and loss to the Company on that account as small as possible.

117. In the 114th paragraph of your General Letter of the 14th of January 1780, you inform us that replies to the Court's letter of 23rd December 1778, respecting contracts, had been received from the contractors; that they were recorded on your proceedings for our information but that you had not then had an opportunity of taking them into consideration. As we do not find in your consultations, lately received, any further lights on the subject we proceed to such observations as occur from the materials before us.

118. Admitting Mr. Templer's state of facts to be true it by no means follows that better terms might not have been obtained for the

Company; indeed he attempts no such defence. He states a loss of 82 elephants at Sylhet, exclusive of those which died on their way to Burrampore, and that he had purchased at different times upwards of 350 elephants for the use of the contract without being able by 70 to compleat the establishment. These circumstances make no alteration in the state of the contract, nor do they entitle him to compensation from the Company supposing the contract to be annulled because, in the first instance, it was irregularly granted.

119. The respectful manner in which Mr. Templer consented to submit his claim to arbitrators to be chosen by the Board only, without any persons of his own appointing, and his declaration to yield obedience to the Court's orders, were very proper; and indeed we must allow that, if all his allegations prove true, he might suffer inconvenience and loss by the annulling of the contract. This will always be pleaded on the like occasions; but as we never enjoin an absolute abolition of contract without good reasons for so doing such pleas must not be suffered to operate in bar of the execution of our positive orders.

120. The declaration of our Surgeon General to pay entire and implicit obedience to the Court's orders respecting the hospital contract, and to accept the allowance granted him by the Company, is perfectly satisfactory to us. The ready acquiescence also of Mr. Williams, so far as he was concerned, in the deed, without stipulating for any terms whatever on that account, was very proper. Taking it for granted that the contract has been annulled you will therefore inform those gentlemen that we rely upon their utmost attention being given to prevent the publick service from suffering temporary inconvenience from any alteration of the mode of supplying the hospital; and that, from their vigilance and faithful discharge of their duty, we expect abuses will be prevented or rectified; and under their inspection and controul the sick duly attended; and the hospital charges be reduced to the least amount possible consistent with the exigencies of the service.

121. As Captain Forde declined relinquishing his contract for an armed vessel for the pilotage of the Chittagong river, and for the protection of the coast and river against the incursions of the Muggs, the injunction contained in the close of the 85th paragraph of the Court's letter of 23rd December 1778 became positive, and ought to have been immediately obeyed. Your having recorded his letter for our information was proper, but can be no reason for delaying to execute the Court's orders which did not admit of reference to future consideration; if peculiar circumstances had been such as could justify delay they would have had due weight with us, but it nowhere appears to have been the case respecting the contract with Captain Forde.

122. We see nothing in Mr. Sampson's letter to induce us to alter our sentiments respecting the impropriety of your Master Attendant being marine contractor. On the contrary we repeat the observation contained in the Court's letter of the 23rd December 1778 that the marine

contractor is, or ought to be, the proper check upon any other person who undertakes that service upon contract. We shall not controvert the testimonies given of Mr. Sampson's conduct as marine contractor, but we must remark that no stress can be laid upon the certificate of Mr. Doveton, the Deputy Master Attendant, for the following reasons: Mr. Doveton was a partner with Mr. Sampson in the marine contract, Mr. Doveton was also Deputy Master Attendant, Mr. Sampson was Master Attendant; he thinks it necessary to bring proofs of having done his duty as marine contractor, and Mr. Doveton, his partner in the contract and his deputy in office, signs an official testimonial in favor of his own partner in the contract, who was also his immediate superior in office.

123. We do not mean to imply that the testimony of Mr. Doveton was not true, for we remark with satisfaction that the masters of fourteen of our vessels have signed very full and ample testimonials that their vessels had been kept in constant and good repair, that they had been regularly furnished with all necessary stores since the commencement of the contract, that they had been annually refitted in the compleatest manner and that all wages had been regularly paid every month as they became due. This was very proper evidence of the contractor having acted upon principle, but the impropriety of his holding the contract is not lessened thereby. We therefore confirm the instructions given in the 93rd and 94th paragraphs of the Court's letter of 23rd March 1778, and positively direct that our Master Attendant be never admitted a competitor for, or interested directly or indirectly in, any future contract of this nature. We observe Mr. Sampson thought it his duty to comply implicitly with the Court's commands. His conduct in that respect was becoming his station and has our approbation.

124. When the Court of Directors ordered the agency of Mr. Vanderheyden to be discontinued they also directed you to advertize for proposals to keep the cantonments in repair by contract, unless you should be convinced that it might be better done by agency; and in such case the agent's emoluments were to arise from savings made and not to be calculated upon the amount of his expedition [expenditure].

125. We see nothing on the face of your proceedings to warrant a conclusion that the terms proposed by Mr. Vanderheyden to execute the work by contract were excessive; they were considerably lower than the charges incurred by his predecessor, and about 6,700 rupees less than the estimate of repairing by agency, but nevertheless the accepting of a single proposal was irregular and unwarrantable. We do not find any member of the Board objected to the amount of the annual charge to be incurred but to the length of the term.

126. The additional clause introduced, enabling Government to put a stop to the works if thought proper when two years of the contract shall be unexpired, obviates General Coote's objection respecting the utility of the post for so long a period, but affords no relief in case the repairs be continued. We therefore direct that immediately upon receipt



hereof, you signify our pleasure to Mr. Vanderheyden that the contract be advertized, and that the lowest proposals with good security for performance be accepted. And if Mr. Vanderheyden, from experience in the work, shall find himself able to perform it upon lower terms than other offers we shall be well pleased to find him continued in that employment, but not otherwise.

127. We have received a letter from our Governor General, dated the 29th of November 1780, relative to an unusual tender and advance of money made by him to the Council, as entered on your Consultation of the 26th of June, for the purpose of indemnifying the Company from the extraordinary charge which might be incurred by supplying the detachment under the command of Major Camac<sup>11</sup> in the invasion of the Maratta dominions, which lay beyond the district of Gohud, and thereby drawing the attention of Mhadjee Sindia, to whom the country appertained, from General Goddard while the General was employed in the reduction of Bassein and in securing the conquests made in the Guzerat country, and also, respecting the sum of three laaks of rupees advanced by the Governor General for the use of the army under the command of Chimnajee Boosla<sup>12</sup>, without the authority or knowledge of the Council, with the reasons for taking these extraordinary steps under the circumstances stated in his letter.

128. In regard to the first of these transactions we readily conceive that in the then state of the Council the Governor General might be induced to temporary secrecy respecting the members of the Board, not only because he might be apprehensive of opposition to the proposed application of the money but perhaps because doubts might have arisen concerning the propriety of appropriating it to the Company's use on any account; but it does not appear to us that there could be any real necessity for delaying to communicate to us immediate information of the channel by which the money came into his possession, with a complete illustration of the cause or causes of so extraordinary an event.

129. Circumstanced as affairs were at the moment it appears that the Governor General had the measure much at heart and judged it absolutely necessary. The means proposed of defraying the extra expense were very extraordinary, and the money, as we conceive, must have come into his hands by an unusual channel; and when more complete information comes before us we shall give our sentiments fully upon the whole transaction.

130. In regard to the application of the Company's money to the army of Chimnajee Boosla, by the sole authority of the Governor General, he knew that it was entirely at his own risk and he has taken the responsibility upon himself; nothing but the most urgent necessity could warrant the measure; nor can anything short of full proof of such necessity, and of the propriety and utility of the extraordinary step taken on this occasion, entitle the Governor General to the approbation of the Court of Directors; and, therefore, as in the former instance, relative to



the sum advanced and paid into our treasury, we must also for the present suspend our judgment respecting the money sent to the Berar army, without approving it in the least degree or proceeding to censure our Governor General for this transaction.

131. You acted very properly in reverting to the original grant to Captain Macgowan<sup>13</sup>, as entered on your proceedings of the 16th February 1778 and finally settled the 5th of March following, and in which we observe your Board was unanimous, and you will take effectual care that no future imposition of toll be levied upon any part of the Company's investment, at any place whatever, except [where] the evident and immediate savings or advantages shall exceed all payments to be made on that account by the Company.

132. We observe that the whole amount of Captain Macgowan's receipts, at the time of the revocation of his additional privilege, had been only 1,135 rupees, and therefore no great inconvenience could have been sustained, either by individuals or by the Company on that account, before the additional grant was annulled. But by a letter from our Board of Trade, entered on your proceedings of the 18th of September 1780, we find the amount of Captain Macgowan's demand on the Board of Trade for toll amounted to current rupees 24,888 per annum. As you left it to the Board of Trade to decide upon Captain Macgowan's claim as they might think proper, and as the Board of Trade were convinced that no present advantage could arise, either from safety or expedition nor even a probability of it in future, we concur in their opinion that Captain Macgowan could not be justly entitled to toll upon goods passing the Cossimbuzar River, until he had improved the navigation and rendered it in some degree adequate to the expense to be incurred by payment of the toll which he had demanded, and therefore direct that no charge be incurred by the Company on that account.

133. In addition to the orders contained in the Court's letter of the 15th December 1775, prohibiting the receipt of money from our Board of Trade as an impost or duty levied on goods which compose the Company's investment, we now direct that no fee of office be taken by any Collector of Government Customs, lest its operation should counteract the abovementioned prohibition and prove in effect a tax under another denomination upon our investment, nor must any duty be levied upon the Company in their commercial capacity upon opium, or upon any article of investment, which may occasion an apparent increase of customs or of revenue, and prove a diminution of the profits arising upon their investment or commerce.

134. Your care to prevent the provinces from being drained of specie was very commendable. We approve the regulations formed by you for that purpose and shall endeavour to add such others as may still appear necessary by a future opportunity.

135. In order to prevent, so far as in us lies, inconvenience to our

affairs occasioned by bills of exchange arriving at improper periods we positively direct that no bill of exchange be drawn upon us until near the dispatch of the last ships of the season, because the Company must in all instances, if possible, be in possession of investments sufficient for, and which may be rendered applicable to, the discharge of all such bills of exchange before they become payable in England.

136. The commander or agents for the owners of the ship *Nottingham*, if she shall be disposed of in Bengal, are hereby permitted to pay into our cash the amount of the produce of the said ship and her stores, for which bills of exchange are to be granted in the like manner you are directed to for her freight.

137. Mr. John Cotton junr., appointed a writer for your Presidency last season, takes his passage on a man of war, and is on his arrival to rank as advised in our letter of the 31st May 1781.

138. We much approve the care of our Select Committee of Bombay in furnishing Mr. Eyles Irwin, sent overland by our Chairman and Deputy Chairman, with a cruizer for Madrass, and from thence to Fort Marlborough, communicating early advice of the rupture with Holland, and also the previous attention of our said Committee in having before advised the President and Council of a breach being inevitable. We hope all possible care has in consequence been taken to be prepared in the best manner, and so far as in their power, for such an event.

139. Since our advices to you of the 29th August last, we have taken into our further consideration the plan for securing the important commercial branch of raw silk, so as to make it beneficial both to the Company and to private traders, and have therefore come to the following resolutions in consequence, viz., that although it may be possible for insurmountable difficulties to arise in carrying this plan into full execution yet we deem it highly proper a tryal should be made with the following exception, that the Company shall neither hold out or adopt an idea that may seem to encourage, in the smallest degree, a monopoly of raw silk; on the contrary that this branch of commerce be left perfectly free and open to all persons whatever, either in the service of the Company in India or enjoying their protection, and therefore direct that a general permission be granted to all such persons to export from Bengal to England any quantity of raw silk upon their own private account.

140. It must be presumed that private traders will have immediate occasion for all the Company's buildings, filatures and erections used in the manufacture of raw silk, which may be rented to them; they will also want our Italian superintendants and assistants who may be continued in their several employments and receive the same pay and advantages they now enjoy from the Company, and all outstanding balances in the silk branch must be put in an equitable train of recovery by the Governor General and Council in the shortest time possible.

141. That whenever the Company shall think proper to resume the trade of raw silk the private traders are to have two years' notice.

142. The private traders must not be suffered to impede the silk trade either raw or manufactured for the commerce and consumption of India; the utmost care must be taken that this branch of commerce meet with no obstruction. Nor must private traders export China raw silk to England upon penalty of forfeiture.

143. The raw silk when laden on our ship must not only be registered but the quantities exactly ascertained that the freight may without difficulty or dispute be adjusted in England.

144. The silk when imported must pass into the Company's warehouses, and be chargeable with the same freight the Company pay the owners.

145. The other charges must be settled and paid in the same manner as is now done with respect to private trade, except that no charge shall be made for either indulgence or exceedings.

146. That if any raw silk is found unregistered the whole shall be forfeited, one half to the informer, the other moiety to Poplar Hospital.

147. Mr. Joseph Price, who has resided many years under your Presidency as a free merchant but came to England for his health, has our permission to return to Bengal; and we direct that he do succeed to the post of Marine Storekeeper upon the death or resignation of Mr. Page Keble.

148. In the 57th paragraph of the Court's letter to Bengal, dated the 27th of May 1779, the loan of two lacks of rupees to Mr. Prinsep, the chintz contractor, was noticed, and such application of the Company's money in general disapproved; strict injunctions were also given for care to be taken that no damage be sustained by the Company on that account.

149. As Mr. Prinsep's original contract with the Company will expire the 15th of February 1783, as it has been attended with a very considerable annual loss to the Company, and as the goods before they are printed would sell for profit at home, we can on no pretence whatever suffer further loss to be incurred on that account after the expiration of the subsisting contract.

150. It is therefore our express order that no renewal or extension of contract with Mr. Prinsep, or with any other person, for the manufacture or printing of chintz in Bengal be granted, nor any such goods received from the contractor upon the Company's account, after the 15th day of February 1783, above-mentioned. And we also strictly prohibit our Board of Trade and all persons from entering into any new contract on our behalf in future for chintz.

151. We observe Mr. Prinsep, in his letter of the 7th of March 1778, says, by the tenor of his engagements to the Company the buildings

at Pultah will fall to us at a very cheap rate. This may possibly be true compared with the prime cost, but as the manufacture is, and always has been, a losing article and is now of necessity to be discontinued, so far at least as respects the Company, the buildings will in all probability become useless or of less value for the purposes intended; and on that account may be found an additional loss or at least burthensome, rather than advantageous to the Company; and for this reason we shall be well pleased if Mr. Prinsep shall be able to repay the money lent him by our Board of Trade, and to satisfy all just demands of the Company for advances of money made to him on our account; on such satisfaction being actually made, to relinquish to Mr. Prinsep the whole of the buildings first agreed to be delivered to the Court at the stated price of 15 Arcot rupees for every cubic foot of solid *pucca* brick work, and one Arcot rupee for every square foot of *pucca* terrass, and afterwards mortgaged to the Company for two lacks of rupees; and we direct that Mr. Prinsep be immediately informed of this circumstance, in order to give him time for any steps which he may think necessary to be taken in consequence of our present declaration.

152. We acquiesce with pleasure in your unanimous resolution, at the strong and pointed recommendation of Sir Eyre Coote, to promote Captain Popham<sup>14</sup> to the rank of major. It was very judicious to insert a clause in his commission, expressing that it was granted as a reward and honorable testimony of the high sense entertained of his military services. We remark that the promotion of Captain Popham was not attended with the supercession of any officer whatever, but that Captain Kyd, another very good officer and Captain Popham's senior, was promoted also to the rank of major, in order to extend the promotion to Captain Popham. And although we allow, on this occasion, the distinguished and very meritorious conduct of Captain Popham to have warranted giving him the strongest marks of approbation, yet this promotion must not be drawn into precedent, nor such a step be ever taken unless the circumstances shall be so strong and striking as to ensure you our approbation.

153. We herewith enclose a list of goods to be provided at your Presidency for the ships taken into the Company's service in the season 1781, to which we require your strict obedience.

154. The owners of the *Prince William* (private ship of war), commanded by Captain William Gowland, which sailed last season to cruise in the Indian seas, having requested our permission to sell that ship in India we hereby agree to permit Captain Gowland to dispose of that ship, provided she is not sold to the French, Dutch or any other European nation, except the English, nor to any of the country powers without the leave of the Governor and Council where she shall be sold, and that at whatever settlement the said ship shall be disposed of the purchaser or purchasers shall give sufficient security to submit to and abide by the above regulations; and in case you shall be in want of cash we also permit the purchase money of the said ship and stores to be paid into our cash for bills of exchange payable to the owners in London.



155. We observe you have granted General Stibbert a commission as Provincial Commander in Chief, but it is our order that the Company incur no additional expense thereby except such as may really be occasioned by procuring intelligence, if that shall at any time be the case; nor must the allowance of 60,000 rupees per annum, heretofore given to General Stibbert, ever be drawn by any Provincial Commander in Chief whatever, nor any other allowance except the regular pay and *batta* annexed to his station in the army, and the shares of commission upon the revenues allotted him by our authority.

156. We have taken into consideration the contracts which you have entered into and extended for keeping in repair the poolbundy of Moorshedabad and Burdwan, and the agency for furnishing provisions for the garrison of Fort William. By the next conveyance you shall have our sentiments fully upon those subjects; in the meantime we hereby strictly prohibit you from renewing, prolonging, extending or giving in reversion any of the above contracts until you shall be furnished with further instructions from us for that purpose.

157. In addition to what we have written in a former paragraph of this letter concerning the representations of His Excellency Count Belgioioso, the minister of His Imperial Majesty, we further direct that you forthwith prepare and transmit to us, so soon as possible, the most circumstantial account of all that has happened, together with reasons at large for your proceedings in every instance which has been made a ground of complaint, and which may enable His Majesty's Secretary of State to return proper answers to the representations of His Excellency the Count Belgioioso.

158. Upon the most mature deliberation it has been resolved by the Court of Directors that the bills drawn in favour of Philip Francis Esqr., for six thousand pounds, cannot be accepted; but we have granted permission to Mr. Francis to pay the amount of fifteen thousand pounds sterling into our treasury at Bengal, for bills to be drawn by our Governor General and Council upon the Court of Directors, on the usual terms and conditions of which we give you this information.

159. We have drawn upon you the following bills of exchange payable at 30 days' sight and 2s. 1d. the current rupee: 22nd November 1781, current rupees 960 at 2s. 1d.—£100—payable to J. Y. Bradford received of himself.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

L. Sullivan / Wm. James / Tho.  
Woodhouse / John Roberts / John  
Manship / W. G. Freeman / W.  
Bensley / Thos. Parry / Thos. Cheap /  
John Hunter / John Smith / John  
Harrison / L. Darell / Jn. Townson.

London,  
the 25th January 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 1.



## ENCLOSURE

(*Vide paragraph 7*)

Orders and instructions given by the Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies to Captain Geo. Curtis, commander of the ship *Nottingham*, or to the commander for the time being.

[1] We, the said Court of Directors, having hired and freighted the ship *Nottingham* whereof you are commander to serve us for the run from England to Fort St. George in [and] Bengal and to such other ports and places in the East Indies whereunto you shall be directed, do therefore hereby order you, as soon as you have received these your dispatches, to make all possible expedition that winds and weather shall permit directly for Bengal aforesaid whereto you are first consigned.

[2] You are during the whole course of your voyage strictly to observe and comply with these our orders and instructions and such others as you may or shall receive from us or the Court of Directors for the time being, as likewise such orders and instructions as shall be given you by the Secret Committee for the time being and those that you shall or may receive from any person or persons who shall be authorized by the said Court of Directors or Secret Committee for that purpose. The gentlemen who compose that committee for the present year are Laurence Sullivan Esqr., Sir William James Baronet, Benjamin Booth, George Cuming, Wm. Geo. Freeman, Robert Gregory, John Harrison, John Manship, John Roberts, Henry Savage and John Woodhouse Esquires, any three of whom are a quorum and in case the Secret Committee shall think it necessary to alter your destination, you are to follow their orders accordingly.

[3] On your arrival at Fort St. George you are to deliver to our President and Council there all the packets directed to them with all the bullion, goods and merchandize on board consigned thither. You are to land all the passengers and soldiers, and in all [things] according to your charterparty (a counterpart whereof is delivered to you for your strict observation thereof) to follow from time to time the orders of our said President and Council for your further proceedings.

[4] We strictly require you to keep up the worship of God on board your ship and good order among your men taking particular care of their healths during the whole voyage. Take care of all the passengers and soldiers that we have or shall send on board. Be very tender of our soldiers' healths, give them daily fitting provisions, keep them stirring and in motion to prevent the scurvy and other distempers; but we will not have them made the drudges of the ship.

[5] You must carry with you a Mediterranean pass, there being many Algerine Rovers<sup>15</sup> abroad which you may meet with in your passage. You must carry with you the full number of English mariners

according to the direction of the Act of Navigation and your covenant in charterparty.

[6] Whatever stationary is or shall be sent on board your ship by us must be put into the breadroom or other dry place, in the hold abaft the main mast but not in any moist place, lest it be thereby spoiled as our advices from India have often complained of; keep all our packets in the round-house free from damp.

[7] We positively require and order that you do not directly or indirectly either for yourself or any other person or persons carry out any bullion, goods or merchandize but what you shall be licensed by us or some committee appointed by us for that purpose and that you use your utmost endeavours to prevent all your officers and seamen from carrying out any unlicensed goods and merchandize or any letters without leave.

[8] Put your ship in the best posture of defence. Quarter your men and frequently exercise them at the great guns and with small arms to make them expert upon all necessary occasions inserting in the journal and log book the times when they are exercised. Trust no colours. Be very watchful at all times against surprizes, station a man continually at the mast head to keep a good look out, avoid speaking to any ship at sea and in general be constantly on your guard.

[9] Take every opportunity, until your arrival at your last consigned port, of advising us of all your proceedings and of every occurrence worthy our notice directing your letters to the Secretary, observing that your letters be transmitted by His Majesty's or our ships and not by those of any power not in amity with Great Britain.

[10] You receive herewith four impressions of a graduated chart, for laying down the tracts of all the Company's ships for yours, your chief and second mates' use, directing you to mark your route from time to time thereon, carefully setting down the variations and corrected longitude, according to your astronomical observations, as well upon the chart as in the journal; you are also to see the same done by your chief and second mates; and, on your return to England, to deliver those graduated charts, with your journals, to the Committee of Private Trade. A certificate will be required of such delivery before the accounts of the commander and those officers are passed.

[11] Exact journals of all transactions and occurrences during the whole voyage are to be kept by yourself and officers which are to be delivered to our Governor and Council of the settlement whereat the ship *Nottingham* shall be discharged our service. The log book delivered you from hence must be strictly kept according to the directors [directions] prefixed thereto, and is to be given in at the same time with the journals.

[12] You are to take particular notice in your journal of all new discoveries, remarkable incidents and whatever may occur to you during the voyage, not generally known and which may tend to the general knowledge and improvement of the navigation to and in the East Indies. You are to point out the same in writing to our Governor and Council of the settlement whereat the ship's last consignment shall be unladen, to be transmitted to us that it may be registered in a book we have directed to be kept for that purpose.

[13] In case you are furnished with any stores out of His Majesty's yards or ships of war send us by the two first conveyances an exact account of what you receive, when and where they were delivered to you and by whom.

[14] We positively forbid your suffering the men to run out more than one third of their wages upon any pretence whatsoever.

[15] You are on no account whatsoever to take or admit on board your ship, to be carried to or towards the East Indies, any person or persons who shall not have the Company's license under the hand of the proper officer.

[16] The boatswain or in his absence the superior officer on board is to enter in a book, for that purpose delivered to you, a true and perfect account of every parcel of goods received into and delivered out of the ship, as well belonging to the Company as others, together with the marks and numbers thereof to be delivered to the Governor and Council at the ship's last consigned port.

[17] You or your purser must sign bills of lading for all treasure, goods and merchandize shipped on our account, and due care must be taken in the stowage of them, not only to prevent damage but that the ship may at all times carry as large a quantity of goods as possible consistent with the safety of the ship and cargo.

[18] You are hereby positively ordered to receive no commissions from or be any ways aiding or assisting to foreigners in carrying on any trade for them within the limits of our charter, as you will subject yourself to our highest displeasure if you shall be guilty of a breach of this order.

[19] You must send us before your departure from England an account of all the passengers on board your ship, and on your arrival at your consigned port in India, you must also send a list of them to the Governor and Council.

[20] We have laden on board a quantity of brandy for each soldier which must be duly distributed among them in proper quantities, from time to time, as may best tend to their refreshment and support.

[21] All orders and instructions that you may receive from the Secret Committee for the time being, as likewise all such of a secret nature which shall be delivered to you by any persons authorized by that Committee during the whole course of your voyage, are to be carefully preserved together, and on your arrival at your last consigned port they are to be delivered to the President. In the mean time you are to keep them inviolably secret.

[22] By the order of encouragement enclosed you will observe what care we have taken to excite the courage of your men in case of being attacked by Europe pirates, or any formidable Europe enemy, during your voyage, to assure your officers and ship's company in our name that we will reward them, after the safe arrival of the ship and discharge of the cargo at her last consigned port, adequate to the merits of the case and their behaviour in defence of our property, either in proportion to their several wages as they are entered upon your books or otherwise as shall appear just and reasonable; as to yourself we will reward you agreeable to your conduct and courage. In case of any persons killed their families here shall be entitled to their share of the gratuity that shall be assigned, which we will see distributed. We leave the management of this order to your prudence, supposing you will not make use of it without a real necessity.

[23] We some time ago was [were] exposed to a good deal of trouble from the importunity of the crew of the *Edgecote* on account of a petty engagement with some free booters on the coast of Malabar, who had formed a notion that they were entitled to a reward for the same. You are to observe such an affair is by no means within the meaning of this order of encouragement and, as beforementioned, we shall depend upon your prudence not to give your ship's company any assurances of a reward without a real necessity.

[24] We have enclosed our printed indulgence to the commanders, officers and scamen of our freighted ships, and we hereby put you, your officers and seamen on the like footing in proportion to the *Nottingham's* tonnage, which must not be exceeded on any pretence whatsoever.

[25] You are to be answerable to us for whatever shall be shipped on our account on board the *Nottingham*, and you are to pay for all deficiencies unless you can make it evidently appear that such deficiencies proceed from the usual waste and unavoidable accident.

[26] We hereby consent that yourself, your officers and ship's company may continue in the East Indies to obtain employment, if they can, in the seafaring way if they choose it, provided such employment shall not be inconsistent with or prejudicial to the interest of the Company, or if they shall not think proper to remain in India they are to be at liberty to return home, at their own expence, on any of the Company's ships for which they may be engaged, or can procure a passage.



[27] Your ship being discharged our service is, according to charter-party, to be entirely at the option of the owners to be employed, sold, or disposed of by them in the East Indies and not elsewhere, under the condition nevertheless of never being returned to Europe on any account or pretence, nor sold to the French or any other European nation excepting the English, neither to be sold to any of the country powers without the leave or permission of our Governor and Council, Chief, Agent or Resident at such place where the ship shall be so disposed of, and that at whatever settlement such sale may be made the Company's said representatives are to take security of the purchasers that they shall submit to these conditions which are ever sacredly to be observed, as we will under no kind of pretence suffer them to be dispensed with.

[28] In order the more effectually to prevent a needless expence of powder on board the Company's ships, we have made some new regulations, by which the commanders are allowed to make no other salutes with guns, than those therein mentioned. Upon all other occasions they are to salute with cheers, according to their own discretion and the present rules of the navy. We inclose a printed copy of the said regulations, signed by our Secretary, and we direct that you do carefully and strictly observe and comply with them.

[29] We enclose herewith an Act of Parliament, made in the 17th year of His present Majesty's reign, to prevent the clandestine unshipping from and receiving goods on board vessels employed in the Company's service, with the standing orders which we have established for preventing the deviation of our ships, and for the detection and punishment of persons who shall be concerned in illicit trade<sup>16</sup>. In order to confine the enormous extent to which those practices highly prejudicial to the Company's interest have been carried, in breach of the repeated orders given and the solemn engagements entered into by our commanders, you are, in the most positive manner, enjoined to pay entire obedience as well to the provisions in the said Act as to the requisitions in the abovementioned orders, cautioning you that the breach thereof will be at your peril, and declaring you are to expect no mitigation of the penalties which shall be thereby incurred, as we deem the indulgences, to which you have a just title, a very liberal consideration for your most faithful services.

[30] We herewith enclose for your information an Act of Parliament, made in the 10th year of His present Majesty's reign, wherein the penalty on illicit trade is greatly augmented, and the transporting guns of all kind, ammunition and warlike stores to the East Indies, or putting them on board for that purpose, or the aiding or assisting therein, without the Company's licence are severally made a high crime and misdemeanor, and the offenders upon conviction are liable to corporal punishment or fine, according to the discretion of the Court of King's Bench.



[31] You are therefore to make all your officers and mariners publicly acquainted therewith, and be extremely cautious that neither yourself nor any of them do offend against the same as we are firmly resolved to make the severest examples of any persons who may be guilty of a breach of the said Act.

[32] We have had a good deal of trouble from the importunity of the crews of several of our ships on account of petty engagements with some free booters on the coast of Malabar, those crews forming a notion that they were entitled to a reward for the same. You are to observe such an affair by no means comes within the meaning of this order of encouragement. And therefore, as is therein mentioned, we shall depend upon your prudence not to give your ship's company any assurances of a reward without a real necessity.

[33] To prevent the great danger and frequent loss of ships by opening of casks of arrac, rum and other spirituous liquors at sea we hereby strictly direct and require that during the whole voyage you do not at any time open, or on any pretence whatsoever suffer to be opened, any cask of arrack or other strong liquor in the lazaretto or elsewhere, under any of the decks; but that whenever any cask great or small is to be opened you do first bring it upon the upper deck, and there draw it off: and if we shall hear you do otherwise we shall deeply resent and punish it.

[34] Having formerly lost some of our ships by fire when the commanders of them were on shore we hereby enjoin you to keep on board your ship as much as possible, and for our mutual security to have a watchful eye in order to prevent [prevent] so fatal a calamity; and whenever you are obliged to be ashore be sure to give the strictest charge to your mates to be constantly careful in this respect as to the lights in drawing off arrack, as mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, and in stowing that so we may not suffer through the sailors' careless behaviour.

[35] Take care to clean and tallow your ship as often as you have opportunity, while you remain in any port during your present voyage.

[36] We have been acquainted that the ship *Marquis of Rockingham* struck on a rock on the coast of Choromandel, in latitude  $12^{\circ}43'$  north, and was unfortunately lost. By observation, two of the seven pagodas bore southwest and the extremes of the land, north to southwest distance off shore, about four miles the northernmost extreme of the land called Covelon. These particulars are therefore communicated to you for your especial observation, in case your course shall lay near so dangerous an object, that you may be extremely cautious for the safety of your ship.

[37] Upon the arrival of the troops ordered on board your ship, or any part of them at any of our settlements, the strictest enquiry is ordered to be made by our Presidents and Councils whether His

Majesty's officers have been properly accommodated, and the private men humanely treated by our commanders. And we have required of them a faithful and impartial report thereof, as we are determined that improper conduct in any of our commanders respecting the troops on board shall be attended with dismissal from our service. We also command you to be very particular in following all such orders as you shall receive from the Commanders in Chief of the land forces with respect to the party embarked on board your ship during the voyage out, and on their arrival in India.

[38] We have laden on board a quantity of brandy, vinegar, soap, sugar, lemon juice and essence of malt to be distributed among the soldiers in such quantities as may be necessary, and enquiry is ordered to be made on your landing the soldiers whether you have complied with this order and to acquaint us therewith.

[39] Upon your arrival at Fort St. George or elsewhere on the coast of Choromandel you are to observe all such orders, as may be given you by the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces, for disembarking the troops from on board your ship and the landing and delivering of all the stores belonging to His Majesty that you may have on board your ship, and you are to give all possible assistance for this service that the same may be performed with the utmost expedition, taking the greatest care that you are regularly discharged from the proper officers, or duly account for the same, whereby all embarrassments with the Government here for short delivery may, on your return, be avoided, and in case of your arrival on the coast of Choromandel before the Commander in Chief of the troops you are then to follow all such orders as shall be given you by our President and Council there.

[40] Should there be any delay in unloading the said stores you are, in such case, to apply in writing to the Commander in Chief for the necessary dispatch and clearance of your ship, and on obtaining your discharge you are to follow the orders of our President and Council.

We are,  
Your loving friends,

L. Sullivan/Wm. James/Jn. Woodhouse/John Roberts/John Manship/  
L. Darell/W. G. Freeman/George Tatem / W. Bensley / Tho. Parry /  
Joseph Sparkes / George Cuming / R. Hall / Thos. Cheap / John Hunter /  
John Smith/John Harrison/Henry Savage.

London,  
the 25th January 1782.

No. 13

Received per *Nottingham*, 12th November 1782.

## LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1782

*Mode of payment to the King's soldiers.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since closing our letter of the 25th instant, we have received from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury a minute of their lordships in the following words:

“ Request the Court of Directors to give orders that so much of the money to be paid to the public, by the India Company, for His Majesty's forces employed or to be employed on their service, according to the Act of the last session of Parliament and estimating the rupee at two shillings and one penny, as shall remain due beyond what may have been or shall hereafter be paid in India to the orders of the commanding officers of corps for the subsistence of the officers actually there, and of the effective non-commissioned officers and private men, be paid into the hands of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's land forces in India for the time being, to be by him remitted home to the Paymaster General.”

2. As the above requisition is perfectly agreeable to us we hereby revoke the instructions contained in our said letter of the 25th instant, relative to the remittance of money on account of His Majesty's troops, proposed to be made by bills of exchange to be drawn by the Governor General and Council upon the Court of Directors, and we now direct that so much money as shall remain due from the Company beyond what may have been or shall hereafter be paid in India, to the orders of the commanding officers of corps, for the subsistence of the officers actually there and of the effective non-commissioned officers and privates, be paid by our Governor General and Council of Bengal into the hands of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's land forces in India, care being first taken to ascertain, by the frequent musters, the exact amount so to be paid as aforesaid; it being our meaning that no part of the said instructions shall be revoked except that which [relate] to remittances only.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

L. Sullivan/Wm. James/Jno. Woodhouse/Jn. Townson/ John Harrison/ John Roberts/John Hunter/Joseph Sparkes/ John Smith/ J. Baring/ R. Hall/Tho. Cheap/Thos. Parry/W. G. Freeman/ George Cuming/ George Tatem/ L. Darell/W. Bensley.

London,  
the 29th January 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 25

## LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1782

*The Governor General and Council reprimanded for failure to send annual consultations—appointment of a Secret Committee to deal with naval and military operations—French ships captured by the British fleet.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since the dates of our last advices to you of the 25th and 29th January last, the ship *Bellmont* arrived and brought us your duplicate General Letter of the 30th April, with postscript of the 15th May 1781, duplicate letter in the Secret Department dated 27th April, also an additional letter of the 15th May, and duplicate letter from the Board of Trade dated 24th April 1781 and letter to our Secret Committee dated 30th of said April.

2. We cannot withhold our great astonishment and surprize that you should in disobedience to our positive orders, in the instructions to the Governor General and Council of the 29th March 1774, paragraphs 26th, 27th and 37th, and of the Act of Parliament of the 13th year of His present Majesty, neglect to send your annual consultations for 1780, also those from the dispatch of the *Fort* to the latest period, or any letter in your Revenue Department, notwithstanding many very interesting transactions had occurred during that period whereby very great inconvenience has been experienced by us.

3. And we are the more displeased that notwithstanding you neglected to transmit to us such important advices, yet the material parts of your Revenue Letters and other papers of great consequence were sent by the Governor General to Major Scott, which we cannot but look upon as the highest inattention to the duty you owe your employers, as well as a great disregard to the legislative authority of this kingdom, and although we shall by future conveyances of several ships, which will be soon under dispatch, acquaint you with our sentiments more fully upon this and other particulars, yet we could not omit this opportunity of expressing our displeasure for such great neglect.

4. In the present critical state of public affairs, we have, upon the most mature deliberations, thought proper to appoint Robert Gregory Esquire, our Chairman, and Sir Henry Fletcher Baronet, our Deputy Chairman, to be a Committee of Secrecy, with powers to give orders and instructions, which you will receive from our said Chairman and Deputy Chairman, relative to naval or military operations, and which must be observed and obeyed with the same punctuality and exactness as though they had been signed by thirteen or more of the Court of Directors.



5. The Secret Committee for the care of the Company's shipping, the present year, consists of Robert Gregory Esquire, Chairman of the Court, Sir Henry Fletcher Baronet, Deputy Chairman, George Cuming, John Harrison, John Manship and Henry Savage Esquires; the orders therefore that they or any three of them shall give for the above purpose are to be duly obeyed.

6. Since our letter to you of the 25th January last, we have resumed the consideration of Sir Elijah Impey's appointment to the office of Judge of the Court of Sudder Dewannee Audalet, and being fully convinced of the impropriety of that appointment and that no time should be lost in coming to a determination on that subject, we have resolved that Sir Elijah Impey be removed from the office of Judge of the Sudder Dewannee Adawlet and we do direct that he be removed from the said office immediately upon the receipt hereof.

7. Since writing the above we have been informed by Captain Greenway, the commander of the vessel called the *Admiral Hughes*, and Mr. Oakes, late a passenger thereon, charged with the dispatches from Madrass, that the said vessel was taken by a French frigate, named the *Egretteon*, the 6th March last near the Western Islands, and that several of the packets were thrown overboard, and, if the captain's declaration is to be confided in, the rest were destroyed on board.

8. The enclosed copy of the London Gazette published on Saturday last will inform you of the particulars of the capture, on the 20th instant, of the *Pegase*, man of war of 74 guns, and several ships, laden with troops, stores, provisions and ammunition, that had left Brest the preceding day and were bound to the Isle of France, and we are since further informed that the *Actionnaire*, another French ship of 64 guns, *armée en flute*, which had a great number of troops with rich and valuable stores, has been also captured by our fleet and brought into Plymouth.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Robt. Gregory/ Henry Fletcher/  
John Hunter / Steph. Lushington /  
Henry Savage / John Roberts / L.  
Darell/ John Harrison/ Jas. Moffatt/  
George Tatem/ Jac. Wilkinson/  
Nathl. Smith/John Smith/W. Bens-  
ley/Joseph Sparkes/ Thos. Cheap/  
R. Hall/George Cuming.

London,  
the 30th April 1782.

## LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1782

*Admiral Rodney's great naval victory over the French.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since the date of our advices of the 30th April last, per *Brilliant*, which sailed from Portsmouth the 5th ultimo, we have received your letters in the Public Department of the 1st July and 19th October 1781, and your letters in the Secret Department of the 31st August and 16th October 1781 per *Nymph* sloop of war.

2. We have already advised you, in our beforementioned letter, of the unfortunate capture on the 6th March last, near the Western Islands, of the *Admiral Hughes* packet, commanded by Captain Greenway, and of the loss of all her packets; we therefore hereby direct that you send us by the first conveyance duplicates of such letters, consultations and other papers as were on board that vessel from your Presidency.

3. You will observe, by the enclosed Act of Parliament, that from and after the 1st day of July 1782, until peace shall be restored with France, Spain and Holland, that the Company are to provide and supply all the victualling to be delivered in the East Indies, necessary for His Majesty's ships and vessels already sent, or hereafter to be sent there; and also for the sick and hurt seamen belonging to such ships and vessels during the time such ships and vessels shall be employed in the East Indies. You are, therefore, hereby directed fully to comply with the said Act, and in obedience thereto to keep a just and true account thereof, which you are to adjust with the Commander in Chief of the King's ships, or the Agent Victualler at your Presidency; and all such accounts must be regularly transmitted to us by different conveyances, one by land if it can conveniently be done and the others by sea in quadruplicate, duly authenticated and fully vouched in conformity to the Act of Parliament, in order that we may be enabled finally to settle the same here with the proper officers of Government.

4. The enclosed copy of the London Gazette, published the 27th April, will inform you of the particulars of the capture on the 20th of that month, of the *Pegase* man of war of 74 guns, and several ships laden with troops, stores, provisions and ammunition that had left Brest the preceeding day and were bound to the Isle of France. And we are also to inform you that the *Actionnaire*, another French ship of 64 guns, *armée en flute*, which had a great number of troops with rich and valuable stores, has been also captured by our fleet and brought into Plymouth.

5. It is with inexpressible satisfaction we acquaint you that, on the 12th of April last, Sir George Brydges Rodney, Commander in Chief

of His Majesty's ships at the Leeward Islands, gained a most complete victory over the French fleet commanded by the Count de Grasse, who is himself captured with the *Ville de Paris* and four other ships of his fleet besides one sunk in the action. The particulars of this great event will appear in the London Gazette of the 14th ultimo, which we enclose for your information.

6. We acquainted you in our letter of the 30th April that we had appointed our Chairman and Deputy Chairman to be a Secret Committee with powers to give orders and instructions relative to naval and military operations, and as since that time we have thought proper to enlarge the powers of the said Committee by enabling them "to consult with His Majesty's ministers in all matters relative to the safety of the Company's possessions", you must therefore obey all such orders and instructions as those gentlemen, in conjunction with John Harrison Esquire, whom we have constituted an additional member of the above-mentioned Committee, may think proper to give you in consequence of such powers as above referred to and described.

7. We have received your several advices by the *Swallow* packet which arrived at Limerick the 25th ultimo, and shall reply to them by the earliest opportunity.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Robt. Gregory / Henry Fletcher /  
Joseph Sparkes / R. Hall / Nathl.  
Smith / Chas. Boddam / John Har-  
rison / George Cuming / Ben. Booth /  
Jn. Townson / John Hunter / George  
Tatem / Jac. Wilkinson / John  
Roberts / John Smith / F. Baring /  
Thos. Cheap / Step. Lushington /  
W. Bensley / L. Darell.

London,  
the 18th June 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 2.

Received per *Greyhound*, 17th February 1783.  
Read 18th February 1783.  
Read in Council 2nd time 6th March 1783.

## LETTER DATED 12 JULY 1782

*Relief to lascars of Danish ships stranded in London—measures to improve winding of silk—Bright dismissed for writing unbecoming letters to the Governor General—Sir Robert Chambers's appointment as President of Court of Chinsura cancelled—Indian servants not to be sent to England except on good security—peace and prosperity necessary for the welfare of the country.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote a short letter to you under date of the 30th of April by the *Brilliant*, which sailed from Portsmouth the 5th May. Transcripts of the said letter will be sent by some of the ships under dispatch, also of one dated the 18th June.

2. Lists of the arrival and departure of our shipping since the last advices are sent in the packets.

3. The names and consignments of the ships, mentioned in the 4th paragraph of our letter of the 25th January last, are as follow, viz.,

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Consignments
<i>General Coote</i> ...	755	Daniel Griffith Hoare	} Coast and Bay
<i>Busbridge</i> ...	755	Alexander Tod	
<i>Winterton</i> ...	755	Raymond Snow	
<i>Duke of Athol</i> ...	755	James Rattray	
<i>Francis</i> ...	755	Henry Grueber	
<i>Rodney</i> ...	755	Henry Wakeman	
<i>Montagu</i> ...	755	Thomas Brettell	} Bombay
<i>Europa</i> ...	755	William Applegath	
<i>General Goddard</i> ...	755	Thomas Foxall	
<i>Fairford</i> ...	755	John Haldane	Bombay and China

4. We have fitted out our ship *Britannia*, Captain Edward Cumming, and consigned her to carry stores and necessaries to St. Helena and Fort Marlborough; she sailed with the *Brilliant*.

5. As our Presidency of Fort Marlborough will stand in great need of supplies it is our positive injunction that you comply with their indents in the fullest manner to the utmost of your power.

6. We hereby permit Captain Charles [Mears], or the agent for the owner of the ship *Brilliant*, in case she shall be disposed of in Bengal, to pay into your treasury (in like manner as has been granted to the owners of the *Nottingham* and the *Ann and Emelia*) the amount of the

sale of that ship and her stores, together with the amount of her freight and demorage, for which bills of exchange are to be granted payable to Sir William James Baronet, or order.

7. The quantity of salt petre to be exported from our several Presidencies by the returning ships of this season must be the same as directed by our letter of the 11th January 1781, as the Company continues the same agreement with the owners of shipping for that purpose.

8. Several lascars, who had been hired to assist in navigating Danish ships, soon after their arrival in Denmark have found means to come to London, and we strongly suspect they were encouraged by some interested persons in order to exonerate themselves from the expence of their return to India. After they have been some time in London they have been reduced to great distress and applied to us for relief, which we have afforded them from motives of compassion and humanity as well as of policy, and thereby been put to great expence, not only for their maintenance and cloathing but in returning them to India, which expence ought not to be borne by the Company. We therefore communicate these particulars, that if any method can with propriety be devised to prevent the like inconvenience in future it may be adopted.

9. The inconveniences which have arisen in your permitting bullion or diamonds to be laden on the Company's packet vessels compel us to order that, in future, you do not allow any persons whatever to lade those articles on such vessels, but require them to be sent on the freighted ships only in the usual manner, unless the consigners shall stipulate for the consignees that the bullion and diamonds so laden shall be received at such port in Great Britain or Ireland as the said packets may arrive at or remain.

10. A memorial from the callico printers having been presented to us, in which they purpose that application be made to Parliament to lay such an additional duty on printed callicoes imported from Bengal as shall put them on an equality with the goods manufactured here, also to prohibit the exportation to India of block plates and all other utensils employed in the printing of callicoes, and the sending out artists skilled in that line, we have, on mature consideration of the said memorial and by way of compromise rather than contending the matter in Parliament at present with callico printers and others, resolved to withhold the importation of printed goods from Bengal for the term of four years, to commence and take place from the dispatch from Bengal of the last ship of the season 1783; we therefore hereby direct that you do strictly conform to our said resolution, a copy whereof is enclosed for your information.

11. We think it proper however to inform you that an Act of Parliament (copies whereof are now sent) has lately passed for preventing the exportation of the several articles, above described, as used in the



abovementioned manufactory, and preventing the sending abroad any artificers in that branch.

12. Since we wrote to you on the 25th January last, respecting raw silk, we have received the following remarks, and recommend them to the several private raw silk filatures to be carried into execution.

13. We observe, with satisfaction, that a sensible improvement is to be obtained by winding the silk with the double crossing machines, and therefore recommend that practice in future.

14. That it is more troublesome for the spinners, and that they cannot make so much silk in a day by using them than without, we are aware of, but our view is to bring that branch [of] our trade to all possible perfection.

15. We were convinced of the efficacy of those implements before we sent them out and we are surprized at the doubts and difficulties started to impede their effect, for we did not send the brass cog wheels to perform different variations from the wooden ones; as both are acting perfectly the same after the Piedmontese principle, which is the only one we can permit to be made use of, let the instrument be constructed of wood, brass or iron, provided they are kept in order; for the defects and the difficulties of winding off the silks, so much complained of by the throwsters, proceeded from the irregularity of the motion occasioned by the reels being out of order, and such silk could not be wound off without very considerable waste at the mills.

16. The brass cog wheels cannot be put out of order except by the breaking of a tooth which must be instantly perceived, and in such case any one of the reels can be exchanged in half a minute, being constructed on purpose in such a manner as to prevent any accident of that kind.

17. We have attended to your advices of the 25th November 1780, in your Revenue Department, respecting the grant to Mr. David Killican of the exclusive privilege of the trade of Assam for four years, from the 1st of January 1781, on his paying the annual sum of 50,000 Arcot rupees to the Company for such exclusive privilege. We have likewise perused the grant itself, as entered on your Revenue Consultations, together with the petition of Gonganarain Roy, complaining of the injuries he will thereby sustain, and a letter from Mr. George Lear, a free merchant, to the Revenue Council at Dacca on the same subject.

18. Grants of this nature are so repugnant to every principle of commerce, so detrimental [*sic*] to the revenue, and so prejudicial to the interest of the natives and others, who ought to be allowed a free and uncontrouled trade over India, in paying the accustomed duties to government, that we cannot hesitate a moment in declaring our condemnation of them, and we hereby direct that the agreement with Mr. Killican be forthwith annulled; and we not only forbid all future monopolies but

also declare that we shall hold you responsible for the consequences of any breach of our positive orders in this respect.

19. Having maturely taken into consideration the state of our covenant servants at the several Presidencies we have resolved to appoint only one writer for the Bengal establishment this season (and that only on the highest and most respectable recommendation), viz., the Honourable Frederick Fitzroy, who is to rank from the receipt of this letter. We have sent his covenants to be executed and then returned to us.

20. The extraordinary and unbecoming letters sent by Mr. George Bright to our Governor General, and by him submitted to the consideration of your Board, could not fail to excite our surprize and indignation. To animadvert upon them would be beneath us. The very proper sentence of suspension from our service which you passed upon Mr. Bright, in consequence of those letters, has been followed by us with dismissal; he must therefore be ordered to proceed to England. We would have you make it known that we shall always consider any indignity offered to our Governor General, or to any of our Council, as an insult to ourselves and will invariably resent it accordingly.

21. Being desirous of conferring upon Mr. Simon Ewart some mark of our favor we repeat our orders of the 18th of October 1780, and direct that he be appointed to such station as shall be suitable to his rank in our service.

22. We direct that Mr. Allen Edward Young, who holds the office of Sub Accountant to the Board of Trade, do succeed Mr. Tomlinson as Accountant to that Board when he shall vacate the same, provided there is no objection to Mr. Young's conduct or abilities.

23. We have permitted Mr. William Burnett, a surgeon on your establishment, to return to his duty without prejudice to his standing, which, by a list of surgeons, dated Fort William 25th October 1778, was next below Mr. John Smith and above Mr. Thomas Gillies.

24. Mr. Henry Butler, a writer for your Presidency, who was taken by the French in the *Hinchinbrooke*, has our permission to proceed to his station on one of the ships now under dispatch.

25. Mr. Nicholas Grueber is permitted to proceed on the ship *Francis*, provided he can be accommodated with a passage after the military shall be embarked on board, and he is, on his arrival in Bengal, to rank in the manner directed by our General Letter of the 31st May 1781, paragraph 34.

26. Messrs John Becher and Henry Thomas Colebrooke have our permission to proceed to their stations at your Presidency on one of His Majesty's store ships.

27. The friends of Captain George Burrington, who was removed from your Presidency to Fort St. George with his rank, having requested that on account of the very bad state of health he had at Madras he might be allowed to resume his former military rank and station at your Presidency, where he has resided for some time past, and being well assured of the truth of their representation we do hereby permit him to remain in Bengal, and that he do resume his original military rank and station at your Presidency.

28. We have permitted Lieutenant Henry Mordaunt (who went in His Majesty's ship *Inflexible*) to return to his rank on your establishment.

29. Captain Thomas Harris, of your artillery, and Lieutenant Charles Murray have our leave to return to their duty without prejudice to their rank.

30. We have appointed Mr. John Francis Paschoud to be a lieutenant fireworker at your Presidency and to take rank from the time of his arrival; he proceeds on the *Rodney*.

31. We have appointed Mr. John Sanderson, who went on the ship *Brilliant*, to be a cadet at your Presidency; his rank will be ascertained by the list sent herewith.

32. Stephen Cassan, Jeremiah Church and Edward Hesketh Esquires have our permission to practise as barristers, and Mr. Solomon Hamilton to practise as an attorney, in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

33. In compliance with your desire we return the setts of Military Paymaster's books for 1769/70 and 1770/71, which were sent to England by mistake.

34. We have licensed several persons to proceed to the East Indies to practise as surgeons, who are to be employed as assistant surgeons in our service where they may be wanted, and are then to rank in the order they are named in the accompanying list.

35. We have appointed Mr. James Ellis, who was formerly first surgeon of your Presidency, to the post of second surgeon on your establishment; and upon the death or resignation of Mr. Daniel Campbell Mr. Ellis is to succeed him as first surgeon.

36. As we consider it highly improper that a judge of the Supreme Court should hold any office under your appointment we hereby revoke the appointment of Sir Robert Chambers to be President of the Court of Justice at Chinsura, or any other appointment that may have been made by you to him or either of the other judges, and positively direct that you do on no account whatever confer any office upon that gentleman or any other of the judges of the said Court in future.

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37. In the 26th paragraph of our instructions dated 29th March 1774, we directed you to transmit to us in duplicate, by each ship, such parts of your letter and advices as we are enjoined by the Act of the 13th year of His present Majesty to transmit to the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury and to the Secretary of State respectively, properly attested under your hands; but as the same has not been complied with so fully as the Act requires we hereby enforce the above requisition, and direct that you send us in duplicate, by every ship, such parts of your letters and advices as relate to the government, commerce, revenues or interest of the Company, properly attested under your hands, to enable us to comply with the requisitions in the said Act.

38. We have attentively considered your advices respecting the various plans adopted by you for supplying your treasury with money. The first plan is in every respect the most eligible. The second does not meet with our approbation as it renders us liable to demands on our treasury in England when it may be inconvenient to answer them; this mode of raising a loan must not therefore be repeated. As to the third plan, for raising 20 lacks of rupees by annuities payable by bills on the Court of Directors, it is objectionable on many accounts; but the making the Company liable to the payment of annuities beyond the term of their exclusive trade is, in our opinion, totally inadmissible. We therefore hereby direct that agreeable to a clause in the agreement for that purpose, these annuities be forthwith redeemed and the annuities put on the same footing with the bond holders, according to the terms of the first loan.

39. We have already given instructions, relative to the accounts and vouchers with which we are to be furnished, for all victualling delivered in the East Indies for the use of His Majesty's ships, agreeable to a late Act of Parliament; in addition to which you will observe, by the same Act, that from and after the 24th day of June 1782, the Company are to supply all such naval and military stores as shall be required for the wear and tear and repairs of such ships or vessels belonging to His Majesty as shall be employed in the East Indies. You are, therefore, hereby directed fully to comply with the said Act, and you are to keep a just and true account of the delivery of all stores, which account you are from time to time to adjust with the Commander in Chief or proper officers of the King's ships, and to take certificates for the receipt of such stores; all which accounts and certificates must be regularly transmitted to us in triplicate by different conveyances, one by land if it can conveniently be done and the others by sea, duly authenticated and fully vouched in conformity to the Act of Parliament, in order that we may be enabled finally to settle the same here with the respective officers of Government.

40. Mrs. Murray having brought a black servant with her to England, named Betty, from Bengal and now refusing to provide her with a passage to India she returns on the *Busbridge*, and we herewith return you the indemnity bond, given by Mr. Alexander Murray, that the said servant should not become chargeable to the Company in England, in order that



the same may be put in force to recover the passage money and such other charges as have been incurred by her, agreeable to an account transmitted in the packet.

41. Having taken into our consideration the appointment of Mr. Auriol to be agent for supplying the other Presidencies and our island of St. Helena with grain, with a commission of 15 per cent on his disbursements, and having examined all your proceedings thereon we cannot but express our displeasure at such an unnecessary expenditure of the Company's money.

42. Our Presidency of Bombay have informed us that they received a consignment from Bengal of 3,040 bags of rice and that they could not but be struck with the enormous amount of the charges, which were said to be near rupees 7 per bag. The freight alone was charged at 5 rupees per bag when they could have contracted for it at Bombay free of all risk and charges at Rs. 5-3 per bag, but what appeared inexplicable to them was the commission of 15 per cent to the agent, which commission was not [only] charged on the prime cost of the rice but also on the freight and all other charges. It likewise appears from the estimate which you have transmitted to us of the probable resources and disbursements of your Government within the 30th of April 1781 and the 1st May 1782 that the amount which it is expected the agent will require from your treasury in 1781/2 will be current rupees 15,92,500/-; at 15 per cent on this sum, the commission will amount to current rupees 2,38,875/- or (taking the rupee at 2/3) £26,873.

43. This profusion of expence is at all times wholly unjustifiable. But that you should have adopted it when the Company were in the utmost distress for money, and almost every department in arrear, shews how little attention has been given to our real interests.

44. In thus disapproving a measure so wholly unjustifiable we mean not to convey censure on Mr. Auriol, or on any other persons who may have been appointed to similar agencies. But all such appointments are to be forthwith annulled, adhering to and repeating our former orders that such parts of the Company's business as can be done by contract be so executed; and in concluding such contracts you are to take the instructions already before you for your guidance.

45. Notwithstanding our orders that security should be taken for the return of black servants to India yet several have been left destitute here who came to England on foreign ships, or for whom no security had been taken, and the Company thereby have been put to considerable expence. We therefore recommend the discouraging sending of black servants to Europe, but if that cannot be effected, sufficient security must be taken for their maintenance in England, as well as for their return to India, agreeable to the accompanying form of a bond, and it must be certified upon the orders to the commanders for receiving black servants on board of ship that security has been given. And we



have come to a resolution that if the commanders shall receive any persons on board the ships without the permission of our Governors and Councils and the certificates, beforementioned, they will incur our severest displeasure.

46. We have desired George Cuning and James Moffat Esquires to proceed to Portsmouth to superintend the embarkation of the 16th Regiment of Hanoverians and of such recruits as shall be ordered on board ships under dispatch; those gentlemen will acquaint you with the numbers of men embarked on each ship and of such other circumstances as they shall judge necessary.

47. His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Honourable Major General Thos. Bruce to the command of the 100th Regiment, serving in the East Indies; that gentleman proceeds on the ship *Busbridge*. And we have paid Captain Tod the sum of £185 for the General's diet and accommodation in the voyage.

48. Lord William Murray, a captain in the 77th Regiment of Foot, having obtained His Majesty's permission to serve in the East Indies, will proceed on the ship *Duke of Athol* at his own expence.

49. We forward, in the packets by these ships, transcripts of the returns and statements of the pay of the 15th Regiment of Hanoverians for the months of January, February, March, April and May, of which payment has been made to George Best Esquire, Secretary in His Majesty's German Office at St. James's.

50. In our letter of the 29th January last, we directed you, in compliance with the request of the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, to pay into the hands of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's land forces in India, so much money as should remain due from the Company beyond what may have been or shall hereafter be paid in India to the orders of the commanding officers of corps for the subsistence of the officers actually there, and of the effective non-commissioned officers and private men; but their lordships having, by a letter from Richard Burke Esquire, dated 26th ultimo, copy whereof is enclosed, signified to us that the Paymaster General with the approbation of the Lords of the Treasury had appointed William Burke Esquire to be his deputy for the said purposes, we therefore, in compliance with their lordships' appointment, direct that you pay over to Mr. Burke so much money as shall remain due from the Company beyond what may have been or shall hereafter be paid in India to the orders of the commanding officers of corps for the subsistence of the officers actually there, and of the effective non-commissioned officers and private men, care being first taken to ascertain by proper musters the exact amount so to be paid, it being our meaning that no part of our instructions of the 25th January shall be revoked except what relates to remittances.

51. We have paid due attention to your advice respecting the agreement made between your Government and the Nabob of the Carnatick in March 1781, and upon the maturest consideration of the paper entitled "The requests of the Nabob", and also of the replies thereto from the Governor General and Council, we cannot be of opinion that the said agreement was either necessary or expedient, and do therefore positively direct that the same be forthwith annulled.

52. We were extremely surprized at the appointment of Mr. Richard Joseph Sullivan<sup>1</sup>, in consequence of the beforementioned agreement, to reside with the Nabob as the Representative and Minister of your Government; for unless you had cause to suspect that our Governor and Council at Madras would not have followed your instructions, or that they had before actually disobeyed your orders respecting such subjects as they are obliged by Act of Parliament to receive and obey, your instructions upon such an appointment must naturally tend to lessen the respect which ought ever to be shewn to them, not only by the Nabob and his family but also by the neighbouring princes. The Nabob's residence at Chepauk, which is in the vicinity of Madras, clearly points out our Governor and Council as the fittest persons to negotiate any matters with His Highness from your Government. We do therefore hereby revoke the said appointment of Mr. Sullivan.

53. Having by our letter of the 23rd December 1778, paragraphs 86 to 88, condemned the contract entered into with Mr. Mackenzie for the provision of opium we cannot but be surprized at your having concluded a new contract for four years relative to that article, with Mr. Stephen Sullivan, without leaving the terms of it to the decision of the Court of Directors. We do not mean to convey any censure on Mr. Sullivan respecting this transaction, but we cannot withhold our displeasure from the Governor General and Council at such an instance of contempt of our authority. Neither can we approve of your having abolished the office of Inspector, and at the same time ordering all the opium to be consigned to the Vender Master, allowing him a commission thereon, when, in our opinion, it should have been sent to the Board of Revenue or to the Board of Commerce.

54. It would have been much more agreeable to us to have seen that the monopoly of this trade had been entirely abolished, leaving the article of opium as open as any other produce of the country. We think that the cultivator should receive every advantage from the produce of his lands, which would be a most pleasing inducement to him to consent to an increase of his rent.

55. We have your advices before us respecting the disposal of 1,460 chests of opium on the Company's account at Rhio and other places in the Streights of Mallacca, the net produce of which was to be paid into the hands of our supra cargos at Canton, and we do not see any objection to the scheme.

56. But with regard to the consignment of 2,000 chests of opium immediately to the supra cargos to be disposed of in such manner as they shall think proper, we have been informed that the importation of opium to China is forbidden by the Chinese Government on very severe penalties. The opium on seizure is burnt, the vessel on which it is brought to the port confiscated, and the Chinese in whose possession it may be found for sale punished with death. Under any circumstances it is beneath the Company to be engaged in such a clandestine trade; we, therefore, hereby positively prohibit any more opium being sent to China on the Company's account.

57. Mr. Samuel Farmer, in behalf of Mrs. Farmer and others claiming under the will of the late Captain Edward Roch, having represented to us that the attornies of William Bensley Esquire, the acting executor, had been refused payment of two bonds, one for current rupees 48,900 and the other for 8,700 current rupees bearing interest at 5 per cent per annum, owing to the Sub Treasurer's construction of a memorandum made on those bonds by Mr. Bensley, but that gentleman having signified to us his desire that the abovementioned bonds may be paid to his attornies, we therefore direct that you pay the said two bonds, one of which is No. 858, dated 17th July 1776, for current rupees forty eight thousand nine hundred, and the other No. 859, dated 31st July 1776, for eight thousand seven hundred current rupees with such interest as may be due thereon, and grant bills of exchange for the amount payable to William Bensley Esquire or order.

58. As we are apprehensive of a great deficiency in our cash in England, in consequence of the stagnation of our commerce, we are under the necessity of prohibiting you from drawing any bills of exchange upon the Court of Directors the ensuing season, except upon the most urgent occasions, unless it be for the amount of the bonds mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the sum of £27,000 for Lord Clive's jaghire, and £200 to Sir Charles Raymond Baronet; should you deviate from our above order, your justification will depend entirely on the evident necessity you shall be under for so doing.

59. In our general instructions to your Government of the 29th March 1774, paragraph 25, we directed that you do not, on any account or under any pretence whatsoever, suffer any European to hold any post or to exercise any office in our service, civil or military, who shall not have been appointed or admitted into the Company's service by the express authority of the Court of Directors. We understand, however, that various departments, at and under your Presidency, are occupied by persons not within the above description; it is therefore our pleasure that such persons be forthwith removed. When we consider the representation you have made to us, in your Revenue Letter of the 5th May 1781, of the number of our covenanted servants out of employ we are convinced of the absolute necessity of enforcing this order, which must be carried into execution without any exceptions, and direct that the salary and allowances to such unauthorized persons as abovementioned do cease upon the receipt hereof.

60. As we have disapproved of the appointment of Mr. Richard Joseph Sullivan to be Resident from your Government at Fort St. George so we cannot acquiesce in a similar appointment of Mr. James Lucy Dighton to be Resident at Bombay; the said appointment is therefore hereby annulled. And we forbid all such appointments being made in future.

61. On considering the long services and merits of Mr. Robert Gregory junior we have thought proper to appoint him to be assistant to the Revenue Council at Patna, and to succeed to that Chiefship on the first vacancy.

62. From the appearance in the correspondence, on your Secret Consultations of 14th June 1781, between Mr. Middleton, our Resident at Oude, and Mr. Johnson, who was sent to Fyzoola Khan, a Rohilla Chief, to require from him the quota of troops with which by treaty he was bound to furnish the Vizier, we cannot but be under some apprehensions for the event.

63. It is exceedingly proper that your Government should see that Fyzoola Khan fulfils his engagement with the Vizier, according to the treaty guaranteed by the Company; but we wish rather to be considered as the guardians of the honor and prosperity of the native powers of India, with whom we are in any degree connected, than as the instruments of oppression. We hope and trust, therefore, that no hostile steps have been taken against the Rohilla Chief.

64. To procure and maintain the peace of India, to quiet the fears of the neighbouring powers, who, from the conduct of our servants, have had too much reason to be jealous of our encroachments, to adhere strictly to treaties and never to be the aggressors, to secure to the natives, under the immediate government of the Company, the undisturbed exercise [exercise] of their religion and customs, and to encourage cultivation, manufacturies and commerce are the means by which we hope to regain the confidence of the native princes, and the attachment of the people. By such means, and by such alone, we may hope to see our affairs once more flourish, and permanency again given to the Company's possessions in the East Indies.

65. We have permitted Captain Swiney Toone, who came home for the benefit of his health, to return to your Presidency without prejudice to his rank; we consider him particularly entitled to this mark of our attention as well on account of his general good character as for services rendered to the Company under our orders, since he has been in Europe.

66 The following gentlemen are appointed cadets for Bengal, in the room of several who did not proceed thither last season, who are to take rank on their arrival in the undermentioned manner, viz.,

Thomas Cowley—next below Ulysses Browne .



William Izod Moseley—next below John Munro  
 Henry Royle—next below James Simpson  
 Walter Hawkes—next below William Hemming  
 Bridges Kearney—in the room and with the rank of Thomas Bouchier  
 Thomas Dance—in the room and with the rank of John Hamilton.

67. We have appointed Messrs Henry Johnston and Thomas Penson, who are abroad, to be cadets for your Presidency; if they should be in Bengal they must be acquainted with their appointments; their rank will appear by the lists sent in the packet.

68. Mr. John Aird, a cadet for your Presidency, who takes his passage on the *Winterton*, is on his arrival to take the rank assigned to Mackenzie Aird by the 49th paragraph of our letter of the 25th January last.

69. Messrs James Salmon, Frederick French, Gilbert Ram[say], Baldwin Duppa Hancorn, John Read and Jos. Shaw, appointed cadets for your Presidency, have our permission to remain in England until next season without prejudice to their ranks.

70. Your giving majors' commissions to Captains John Dodds, James Lewis and Alexander Maglashan, on purpose to enable them to partake of the Military Fund in such advanced rank, was highly improper; and as we cannot but consider such appointments as tending to pervert the real intention of that institution we positively forbid the like being practised in future.

71. The Right Honorable the Lords of the Treasury having, upon the peculiar circumstances represented to their lordships as stated in the 7th paragraph of your letter of 30th April 1781, given their consent to our accepting sundry certificates drawn by you in favor of the commanders and officers of the *Neptune* and *Bellmont*, amounting to £16,000, we have accordingly accepted them on the usual terms.

72. We disapprove of your having granted to the commanders and officers of the ships *Earl of Dartmouth*, *Rochford* and *Grosvenor* the indulgence of paying into our cash £16,000 for certificates for each ship, as it is very inconvenient to repay the same in the present situation of the Company's affairs and contrary to Act of Parliament, and therefore such indulgence must be discontinued in future.

73. We have not accepted the beforementioned certificates for the extra £8,000 for each of the ships *Earl of Dartmouth*, *Rochford* and *Governor* [*Grosvenor*], but have submitted the same to the consideration of the Right Honorable the Lords of the Treasury.

74. Having in several of our letters to you since 1773 ordered legal proceedings to be taken against sundry persons therein named we direct that you lose no time in bringing these several suits to determination, and particularly inform us of the state thereof, the grounds of defence and when they may probably be brought to trial.

75. As it is highly necessary that we should be regularly informed, from time to time, of the state of the law suits in which the Company



is engaged with Europeans we therefore direct that you send us, in duplicate, an account of all such suits which have been commenced or ordered to be commenced in the Supreme Court wherein the Company are parties, and the state of the proceedings that have been had therein.

76. The Right Honorable Mr. Secretary at War having, by letter dated the 17th April last, a copy whereof is enclosed, applied to us to give directions for the payment of the several sums of money, therein mentioned, for the victualling and subsistence of the 2nd battalion of the 42nd Regiment of Foot, and for subsistence money advanced to Lieutenant Anthony Elwood of the 101st and Lieutenant Robert Gregg of the 102nd Regiment of the King's troops, now serving in India, you are to pay the same as part of the sum due to those regiments respectively, agreeable to the Act passed last session of Parliament. Copies of the several papers, mentioned in the above letter to be enclosed to us, are now forwarded for your information.

77. It having appeared to our Committee for the Management and Application of the Military Fund that no distinction has been made between the surgeons serving in the factories and those attending the army, and as we are of opinion that only those who serve with the army are entitled to partake of the said fund we direct that certificates and recommendations for pensions be granted in future to such surgeons only as have been actually employed in the army and are invalided.

78. Recommendations having been granted, to entitle persons to the benefit of the Military Fund, to several who were not within the description of the deed we therefore cannot but express our disapproval of such recommendation and positively direct that particular attention be paid to the circumstances on which every person grounds his or her claim, who shall hereafter apply for a certificate to be admitted a pensioner.

79. From the very critical situation of public affairs and the probability of our several outward bound ships, now at Portsmouth, being required to put to sea at the shortest notice we have thought proper to send you such parts of our answers to your advices as are already compleated. And should we have time before the ship's departure to send you our further remarks and orders we shall not fail to embrace the opportunity.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Robt. Gregory / Henry Fletcher /  
John Harrison / George Tatem / Jac.  
Wilkinson / Chas. Boddam / John  
Hunter / Joseph Sparkes / R. Hall /  
John Smith / John Roberts / Step.  
Lushington / Ben. Booth / W. Devay-  
nes / George Cuming / Jas. Moffatt /  
Nath. Smith.

London,  
12th July 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal (triplicate).  
No. 1.

## LETTER DATED 28 AUGUST 1782

*The Tanjore Raja's rights—Governor General's proceedings against Fowke and Bristow reversed—the Bijaigarh prize money—construction of Calcutta-Chunar Road—Raja Chait Singh's case reviewed.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the unavoidable detention of the Company's ships at Spithead we are enabled to reply to some material parts of your advices and to furnish you with our further directions, in addition to those in our last letter of the 12th ultimo.

2. The Right Honorable Lord Macartney has transmitted to us copy of a letter, which he received from the Governor General, dated 23d July 1781, an extract from which is as follows: "I can say little upon the subject of Tanjore, for I can hardly allow it the credit of a serious argument. The meanness of our first settlers dignified the Rajah with title of king; and by that misnomer, if I may call it so, he has acquired all the prerogatives of royalty, though the Nabob, his undoubted sovereign, has been, without scruple, treated as a dependant. If these ridiculous prejudices are allowed to operate against every principle of justice and policy and (I must add) of commonsense it is a pity that they could not be confined to the season of peace and security. Surely this is not a time to encourage or yield to the delusion. The late President and Select Committee informed us that the Rajah had refused to contribute a store of grain to the subsistence of the army, for which the President had written to him a letter expressive of his displeasure. This is a language so remote from my conceptions of the actual and absolute rights of your Government, while it is charged with the entire defence of the state, of which the Raja of Tanjore is a member, and of his dependence [*sic*], that I can scarce offer an opinion which shall not appear extravagant in the comparison. In a word I think it improper at such a time to leave the Rajah an opinion [option] to withhold a grain of his store, or a rupee of his treasury, from the service of the general state; and most heartily advise that while that service, in the present desperate condition of it, lasts, the whole, with the single reservation of his own personal subsistence, be taken out of his hands in better trust for the public use. These are my public, not private, sentiments, and your Lordship is welcome to avail yourself of them in any manner you please. Most heartily do I wish that they may be conformable to your own."

3. The sentiments contained in the preceding extract are so diametrically opposite to those which we entertain respecting the rights of the Rajah of Tanjore, and the other powers connected with the Company, and are so repugnant to every idea of justice and moderation, and the agreement subsisting between us and the Rajah, that we cannot but express our extreme surprize thereat. We hope and trust that they have made

no impression upon the minds of the Governor and Council of Fort St. George that may prove derogatory to the rights of the Rajah. We have written a letter to His Excellency by this dispatch, a copy whereof is enclosed for your notice, wherein we have assured him of our unalterable determination to support and protect him in the management and government of his own territories, according to the agreement subsisting between the Nabob of Arcot, the Rajah and the Company, and to guarantee to him and his family the quiet possession of his country. We have therefore given directions to our servants at Madrass to govern themselves in all their transactions with the Rajah, agreeably to these determinations.

4. Your proceedings respecting Mr. Francis Fowke are really surprizing to us. Mr. Fowke's first appointment to be Resident at Benaras was in August 1775. He was recalled from thence in December 1776, and Mr. Graham appointed to succeed him. Our orders however of the 30th January 1778 were positive for his restoration, but they were rendered ineffectual by your resolution, in July 1778, to suspend the execution of them. In May 1779, we repeated the orders respecting Mr. Fowke, and in consequence thereof Mr. Fowke was again appointed to proceed to Benaras. But judge of our astonishment to find that in January 1781, in contempt of our authority, Mr. Fowke was once more removed from his station at Benaras. So far from a charge having been brought against him, on which ground alone his removal could be justified, we find his conduct approved and his character esteemed; and in lieu of that station from which he is thus removed another positive order of the Company was broken through by his being appointed agent for the provision of boats to be employed for the military service of your establishment, with a commission of 15 per cent upon his disbursements, and an allowance given him of rupees 1,000 per month, until the expiration of the then subsisting boat contract.

5. Without meaning to disapprove of the conduct of Mr. Markham, who was appointed to succeed Mr. Fowke at Benaras, but merely to vindicate the authority of the Court of Directors we hereby direct that Mr. Fowke do immediately resume his station at Benaras. As to the boat agency that appointment must be immediately annulled, and the business performed by contract, in the manner repeatedly laid down for your guidance.

6. Equally extraordinary and unwarrantable have been your proceedings respecting Mr. John Bristow. He was appointed Resident at Owde in December 1774. In December 1776, he was recalled without the shadow of a charge being exhibited against him. By our letter of the 4th July 1777, we signified our disapprobation of the proceedings against Mr. Bristow, and directed that he should be restored to his station; which direction we confirmed by our subsequent letter of the 23rd December 1778. Mr. Bristow arrived in India in February 1780, and in October of the same year it was resolved by your Board that Mr. Bristow should return to Owde but that his appointment should be limited solely to the conduct

of political negotiations, Mr. Middleton being at the same time nominated to settle *pecuniary* matters with the Vizier. On the 21st of May 1781, upon receiving a letter from the Vizier, expressing his desire that Mr. Bristow should be removed from his court, he was again recalled. But without entering into the consideration of this matter, and in order to vindicate and uphold our own authority, we do hereby positively direct that Mr. Bristow do forthwith proceed to Owde in the station of our Resident there. We do not mean in the least to reflect on the character and ability of Mr. Middleton who must be immediately recalled from thence, but it is a duty incumbent upon us thus to maintain the respect due to the orders of the Court of Directors. You are likewise to observe that we shall not suffer any other person to proceed to Owde for the management of the finance, one person being in our opinion sufficient to transact our business there as principal in both those departments, and we expect our orders respecting the succession to that Residency be fully complied with.

7. When we consider the peremptory and repeated orders which we have given respecting the appointment of field officers we cannot but express our displeasure at the various instances of disobedience thereto. But we are struck with particular astonishment to find that in consequence of your military arrangements in 1780, no less a number than thirty six captains were promoted to the rank of major, besides 84 lieutenants to the rank of captain and 124 ensigns to the rank of lieutenant.

8. We do not find that Sir Eyre Coote, our Commander in Chief, was consulted upon the occasion, but on the contrary we have before us a strong protest from him, both against the arrangements and the promotions in consequence of them, declaring the whole to be "irregular, unmilitary and burthening the Company with an enormous additional expence, which he was clearly satisfied there was no necessity for incurring and much less at a time when the Company's funds could so ill afford it."

9. Admitting, however, the necessity for the arrangement made in the *sepooy* corps, we see no reason for putting a major at the head of each regiment, with an additional allowance of 600 rupees per month, when in our opinion a captain might have done the duty, nor for appointing a captain to the head of each battalion when the service might have been performed by a lieutenant. We do therefore hereby positively direct that the advanced pay and allowances to the officers, thus appointed to the rank of major and captain, be immediately discontinued, until those officers shall have risen to such superior rank, according to the establishment of the army before the regulations above-mentioned took place.

10. We observe likewise that, with the same disregard to our orders, you have promoted Lieutenant Colonel Blair to the rank of colonel thereby superceding a very deserving officer, Lieutenant Colonel Tottingham. We therefore direct that you grant to the latter a brevet



commission of colonel upon the receipt hereof, and that he be restored to his proper rank, which is next below Colonel Muir<sup>1</sup> in the infantry, but neither of the said officers, nor such others as may have been promoted to the rank of field officers or any others advanced to superior rank contrary to our orders, are to receive the pay and allowances annexed to their advanced rank until they shall have risen thereto, according to the establishment of the army.

11. We shall take another opportunity of remarking, in stronger terms, on the deviations from our orders in this respect. In the meantime we positively direct that you do not make any promotions of field officers above the establishment on any account or pretence whatsoever.

12. We have already given you our sentiments on your late military arrangements so far as they regard the appointment of officers to superior rank beyond the establishment of the army. We continue of the same opinion respecting such a disobedience of orders, and think it necessary to repeat our directions that you do not appoint any additional field officers on any pretence whatsoever. General Coote's last letter to us from Fort St. George of so late a date as the 29th January 1782, has confirmed us in our opinion on this subject. This letter was written after your regulations had time to operate. The detachment under Colonel Pearse was included in those regulations. The General must therefore have experienced the ill effects of them. He has expressed himself in the following words: "The swelling of the Bengal military list with the creation of such a number of field officers, and the advancement of the inferior ranks in proportion, has been productive of a grievance severely felt by the Company's old and experienced officers on this as well as on the Bombay establishment. As acting as they now are upon the same services it has been attended with all the hardships incident to supercession. The officers also in His Majesty's service, whilst acting in this country, suffer from this new arrangement."

13. However competent we may be to give an opinion upon the appointment of officers to superior rank, yet we confess ourselves not sufficiently able to judge of the plan for new modelling your corps of native infantry. Much must depend on local knowledge. A plan, the objects of which were to lessen expences and to do justice to the native troops, is certainly entitled to a liberal construction. But as we had appointed a Commander in Chief of such distinguished abilities and experience as Sir Eyre Coote his opinion ought certainly to have been asked, and his approbation obtained, before you resolved to put it in execution.

14. We cannot, however, avoid remarking on a very extraordinary passage in the letter from General Stibbert on this occasion; and which was adopted by you in your letter of the 7th of January 1781. After observing that abuses had, from a long course of practise, insinuated themselves throughout the army, and which were of a nature tending



immediately to the ruin of the corps composing our native infantry, and consequently to the endangering the British interests in India, General Stibbert adds that totally to debar officers from all perquisites and emoluments whatsoever, without advancing their rank and salary, would produce no other consequence than that of rendering them to a man disaffected to the service.

15. Such unmilitary ideas coming from a provincial Commander in Chief cannot but astonish us. Abuses have crept into the service leading to its immediate ruin, and a remedy is not to be applied without countenancing other abuses and without a positive breach of our orders. To preserve the British interests in India these abuses must be remedied, but the remedy is to be at the expense of the Company. And if we do not consent to this, our provincial Commander in Chief has told us that, to a man, the officers will be disaffected to the service. But we have a better opinion of the generality of the officers employed in India. We think they will chearfully acquiesce in measures taken for the remedy of abuses without a compensation, will content themselves with the fair emoluments of their stations, and not be disaffected to a service, the advantages of which are allowed to exceed any other, because it is necessary to make reforms in order to prevent that service being brought to ruin. We desire that you communicate these our sentiments to General Stibbert.

16. We highly approve of your conduct respecting Major Peter Grant who was charged with having attempted to defraud the *sepoys* under his command of their pay, *batta* and other dues, with having delivered false musters and drawn pay for the full complement of his battalion, although the same was incomplete, and with having excited the *sepoys* to mutiny and desertion. We find that he was adjudged guilty of the first and second charges and sentenced to be cashiered, which sentence you very properly approved. Major Grant must therefore be immediately ordered to proceed to England.

17. We hereby direct that you observe it as a standing order that whenever officers shall be dismissed by the sentence of a general court martial, and the same meeting with your approval, such officers must on no account be permitted to remain in India.

18. In reply to the 45th and 46th paragraphs of your letter of the 29th of November 1780, relative to the appointment of an Adjutant General over India, we must refer you to our orders of the 3rd March 1775, paragraph 87. In addition thereto, we are to inform you that on the 9th of the same month the General Court of Proprietors, for the third time, did not think proper to agree in the expediency of such an office. With three resolutions of the General Court against the appointment of an Adjutant General it is not in our power to yield to your recommendation in this respect; such an appointment therefore must on no account take place.

19. The Governor General in his letter to your Board of the 8th December 1781, at Benaras, having remarked on the precipitance with which the captors of Bijeghur proceeded to a division of the treasure<sup>2</sup> and other valuable effects found there, without waiting your decision thereon, we direct that the conduct of the commanding officer upon this occasion be immediately enquired into by a court martial, and that you acquaint us with the result by the first opportunity.

20. Lieutenant Hugh Stafford who, we advised you in our letter of 31st May 1781, had our permission to proceed on a Dane ship, being disappointed of that opportunity, now returns to his rank on one of His Majesty's store ships.

21. Since writing our letter of the 12th ultimo, we have received a letter from the Right Honorable the Secretary at War, dated 9th ultimo, copy whereof is enclosed, signifying that upon the death of the late Earl of Seaforth His Majesty was pleased to appoint Colonel Humberstone of the 100th Regiment to the 78th Regiment, and to direct that from the 13th February last, the field officers of the 78th Regiment should consist of two lieutenant colonels and one major instead of one lieutenant colonel and two majors, and that Colonel Bruce was appointed to the command of the 100th Regiment *vice* Humberstone, in consequence whereof the corps has one colonel and two majors instead of one lieutenant and two majors; and as the 78th and 100th Regiments make part of His Majesty's forces which, by an Act passed in the year 1781, are to be paid for by the East India Company, we therefore give you this information that you may regulate yourselves agreeable to the aforesaid Act.

22. Your proceedings of the 7th of July 1781 respecting the road to be made from Calcutta to Chunargur could not fail to attract our notice. This undertaking we find is to cost the Company at least two lacks and a half of rupees.

23. When we consider the enormous amount of your military charges, the scarcity of cash at our other Presidencies whereby they are unable to pay the troops, the want of money for the provision of an investment, and the absolute necessity of every rupee being applied to the purposes abovementioned, we are astonished at the measure; nor can we withhold our surprize at your having agreed to allow the officer appointed to superintend the work the enormous gratuity of 50,000 *sicca* rupees, which we can by no means give our consent to, but if upon the completion of the business the officer shall appear entitled to some reward we will, upon your recommendation, take the same into our consideration.

24. In time of peace, and with a flowing treasury, there might not have been much objection to a work of this kind, but even then the matter ought to have been submitted to our previous consideration and final determination, agreeably to our orders of the 16th April 1777,

paragraphs 52 and 53, the Governor General having declared it to have been long in contemplation. But so trifling, in your estimation, even in the present critical situation of the Company's affairs, is the expenditure of two or three lacks of rupees that you have not so much as mentioned the subject to us in any of your letters.

25. However, as the business will be in great forwardness by the time of your receipt hereof, we have only to enjoin you never to exceed the sum of rupees 16,000 per annum for keeping the road in repair, and to direct that all future projects of this kind be submitted to our consideration before you carry them into execution.

26. It is necessary also to enjoin you to mention every matter of importance in your letters to us with marginal references to your consultations, that we may be the better enabled to reply to your various proceedings, and to give the earliest information thereof to His Majesty's ministers.

27. As we have not time by the present dispatch to send you our directions upon the regulations you have made in the mode of collecting our revenues, we shall take the same fully into consideration and send you instructions thereon by a future opportunity.

28. To prevent the great inconvenience which has arisen from the want of a due attention in our commanders and officers in marking and numbering their packages in private trade we have directed our several commanders to cause every package of private trade, which they may receive on board in India and China on their indulgence, to be marked with the initials of their own names, and also to register the same agreeably to the said mark, specifying particularly in the register the contents and quantity of the contents of each package, and that the commanders do order all their officers to mark their goods in the same manner and to take care that they comply therewith. We have also ordered that commanders and officials within thirty days after the clearing of their ships at the custom-house here do deliver to the clerk to our Committee of Private Trade a true account of all such private trade packages belonging to them, specifying the marks, numbers, contents and quantity of such contents agreeably to the register, as that all such packages as shall not be found to correspond with such register will be liable to confiscation. The commanders of the ships now under dispatch are acquainted with the foregoing orders, and we direct that you acquaint all our commanders who shall be at your Presidency with the said orders, that they may punctually comply with them and avoid incurring the penalty of their property being confiscated.

29. George Cuming and James Moffatt Esquires are returned from Portsmouth and have delivered to us the returns of the 16th and part of the 15th Regiment of Hanoverians, also a detachment of His Majesty's 73rd Regiment of Foot on board the ships under dispatch, of which we send you copies in the several ships' packets.

30. As we have at several times expressed an inclination to shew some mark of our favor to Mr. Simeon Ewart, at present a fixed factor on your establishment, we have thought proper to remove the bar to his succession in the service, and direct that he remain in his present standing until all the writers of 1779 shall have risen to the rank of factor when Mr. Ewart is to take rank next below Mr. Robert Holt, and we further direct that he do rise to superior stations in the usual manner as vacancies shall happen in the service.

31. As the commanders and officers of the Company's packets are not permitted to carry out any private trade they are not entitled to the privilege of paying money into our treasury for certificates on us. You have therefore acted very improperly in granting certificates to the commanders and officers of the Company's ship *Swallow* and the *Lively* packet for £3000 each vessel, which must not be repeated as we are determined to refuse our acceptance to any such remittances in future.

32. Having drawn upon us, by the ships of this season, for the remainder of the unclaimed sums permitted to be drawn in 1780, on account of deceased persons' estates, which we have accepted, although we have disapproved of the measure in our letter of the 31st May 1781, we do here repeat the orders then given prohibiting your drawing any bill or bills of exchange to be paid by the Company in England, except such as shall be specifically appropriated and described by our orders, and except in cases of actual emergency which shall warrant a deviation from this order.

33. We yield with pleasure to your recommendation in favor of Mr. Larkins, your Accountant General, as expressed in the 8th and 9th paragraphs of your General Letter of the 14th February 1782, and hereby direct that he do take rank in our service, according to his original standing, next below Mr. Thomas Calvert. Mr. Larkins's merits certainly entitle him to this mark of our favor, and which he is to consider as a token of our approbation of his conduct; but we must at the same time direct that agreeably to the terms of his own letter, a copy whereof we received by the *Nancy*, Mr. Larkins do on no account quit his present post, in which he is so eminently useful, without our permission.

34. We have for the third time been applied to by the executors of the will of the late Captain Henry Spellman of your cavalry, who died in Calcutta in April 1765, in respect to a sum said to be due to his estate on account of disbursements made to him for horses, accoutrements etc. furnished to the troop[s]. In our General Letter to your Presidency, dated 25th March 1772 (per *Prince of Wales*), we directed that you would without delay make full enquiry into the whole of this transaction and advise us of the result of your investigation, but have not received any answer relative to this affair.

35. As the whole of this transaction is fully stated in the last memorial of the said executors and papers accompanying it, copies of



which go a number in the packet, we refer you thereto for all the information we can give relative to this matter, and positively direct that you will take the same into your immediate consideration, and whatever sum may appear to be justly due from the Company to the estate of the said Captain Henry Spellman, you will cause the same to be paid to such persons, at Calcutta, as may be authorized to receive the same.

36. The very ill state of health of Robert Gregory Esquire, our late worthy Chairman, having obliged him to retire from the direction, we have elected Sir Henry Fletcher Baronet, Chairman, and Nathaniel Smith Esquire, Deputy-Chairman. These gentlemen, together with John Harrison Esquire, are invested with the usual powers relative to all naval and military operations.

37. We have appointed Mr. James Monat to be a practitioner engineer at your Presidency, and he is to take rank as youngest ensign from the time of his arrival.

38. Mr. John Read, appointed a cadet for your Presidency, who had leave to stay in England untill next season without prejudice to his rank, now proceeds on the *Cato* man of war.

39. Having examined your proceedings relative to the appointment of Major Fairfax, with his pay and allowances, to have charge of the Governor General's narrative of his transactions at Benares, we are of opinion that the said appointment was not only unprecedented but highly improper and unnecessary, and utterly inconsistent with the oeconomy which ought to be observed in the management of the Company's affairs. We are the more astonished at this appointment as Major Fairfax has candidly acknowledged to us that the state of his health obliged him to return to England at the time he did, and that he should have come home the preceding season had not the situation of public affairs induced him to stay. Should you, however, be of opinion that he is entitled to any compensation on this account the same is to be given by yourselves, as we will never consent to the Company being put to the smallest expense by such an unjustifiable transaction; and hereby positively direct that no such appointment be made in future on any pretence whatsoever.

40. As we are unable to determine on what terms the commanders and officers of the packets from India have been engaged on that service, your advices being totally silent on the subject, and the only information we have been able to obtain has been immediately from the commanders themselves, we direct that you do advise us, in a very minute and circumstantial manner, of the terms and conditions on which the commanders, officers and others are entertained, expressing the rate of the exchange of the rupee.

41. From the examination of the commanders of the *Swallow* and *Nancy* packets we learn that they belong to the marine establishment; it will therefore be necessary to transmit to England annually, in

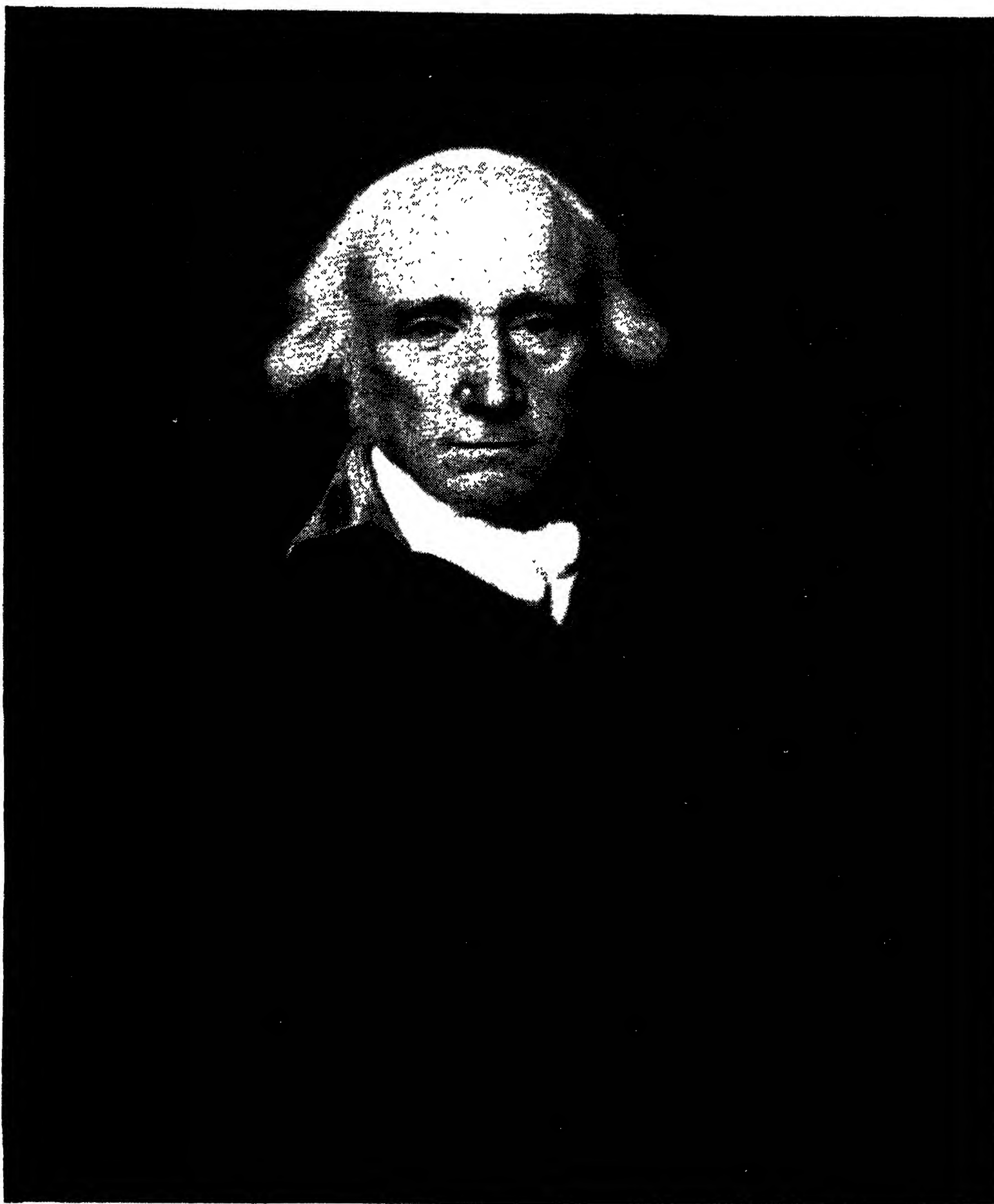
duplicate, a return of the vessels, also of the commanders and officers still continued on that establishment, with a particular statement of their rank, pay and respective allowances.

42. The number of men borne upon the books of the before-mentioned packets is represented to be agreable to the war establishment at Bengal, but this appears to us extravagantly large, and can by no means be admitted hereafter. We, therefore, direct the following establishment for the packets fitted out in future in India: that for a vessel of 100 tons burthen the compliment of men be 18, and for every additional 50 tons be added 5 men to the said compliment.

43. You are to consider this establishment as your guide in the equipment of packets at your Presidency, except in instances where the number of Europeans cannot be procured; in such cases a sufficient number of lascars may be shipped in the room of the number of Europeans wanted. But putting packets upon a war establishment appears to us unnecessary as we see no good reason for their being vessels of force.

44. The proceedings of your Government respecting Rajah Cheyte Sing<sup>s</sup> have been for some time under our serious consideration. Our enquiry commenced with the death of Sujah Dowlah in 1775, when the Governor General and Council concluded a treaty with his successor by which the zemindary of Benares, with its dependencies, was surrendered in perpetuity to the Company.

45. Previous to the conclusion of the beforementioned treaty we find that on the 13th February 1775, the Governor General proposed that each member of the Board should deliver in his sentiments on the conditions to be required or acceded to for the new treaty. This was accordingly done, and on the opinions then delivered the Governor General proposed that the perpetual and independent possession of the zemindarry of Benares and its dependencies be confirmed and guarantied to Rajah Cheyte Sing, and his heirs, for ever, subject only to the annual payment of the revenue hitherto paid to the late Vizier, amounting to Benares *sicca* rupees 23,71,656-12, that no other demand be made upon him either by the Nabob of Oude or your Government, [nor] any kind of authority or jurisdiction exercised, by either, within the dominions assigned him. The Governor General's observations on this proposition are as follow: "The Rajah of Benaras, from the situation of his country which is a frontier to both the provinces of Owde and Bahar, may be made a serviceable ally to the Company whenever their affairs shall require. He has always been considered in this light both by the Company and the successive members of the late Council; but to ensure his attachment to the Company his interest must be connected with it, which cannot be better effected than by freeing him totally from the remains of his present vassalage under the guarantec and protection of Company, and at the same time guarding him against any apprehensions from this Government, by thus pledging its faith that no encroachments shall ever be made on his rights by the Company."



Warren Hastings





46. On the 3rd of March the Board resume [resumed] the consideration of the business and the Governor General proposes [proposed] the following question, "Whether it shall be made a condition of the new treaty that Rajah Cheyte Sing shall exercise a free and independent authority in his own dominions, subject only to the payment of his tribute?" The question was resolved in the affirmative.

47. Every preliminary being settled with the Vizier, and the treaty executed, the Governor General on the 12th June 1775, laid before the Board a minute with observations respecting the arrangements to be made with Rajah Cheyte Sing, in which he declares his readiness to acquiesce in any plan which may be proposed in terms by which more effectual provision may be made for the interest of the Company, without any encroachments on the just rights of the Rajah or the engagements actually subsisting with him. He proposes that Cheyte Sing shall pay to the Company, in equal monthly payments, the yearly revenue of 22,48,449 *sonaut* rupees, that he shall be empowered to exercise a complete and uncontrouled authority over his zemindary under the acknowledged sovereignty of the Company, that he shall maintain in constant pay a body of 2,000 horse for the service of the Company whenever they shall be required; and that while the Rajah shall continue faithful to these engagements and punctual in his payments, and shall pay due obedience to the authority of your Government, no more demands shall be made upon him by the Company of any kind; nor, on any pretence whatsoever, shall any person be allowed to interfere with his authority or to disturb the peace of his country. At the conclusion of this minute the Governor General observes, "That voluntary restraint laid by the Government on its own actions will afford the Rajah the greatest confidence, and naturally inspire him with sentiments of fidelity and attachment, both from the principles of gratitude and self interest; without some such appearance he will expect, with every change of Government, additional demands to be made upon him, and will of course, descend to all the arts of intrigue and concealment practised by other dependent Rajahs, which will keep him indigent and weak and eventually prove hurtful to the Company. By proper encouragement and protection he may prove a profitable dependant, a useful barrier and even a powerful ally to the Company; but he will be neither if the conditions of his connection with the Company are left open to future variations." On the 5th of July the Board agreed with the Governor General, except in the article to oblige Rajah Cheyte Sing to keep up a body of 2,000 horse; they resolved indeed to recommend the same to him, but declare there shall be no obligation on him to do it, the Governor General at the same time observing that it was far from his intention to propose this or any other article to be imposed on the Rajah by compulsion.

48. We are much surprized at the conduct of the Governor General towards the Rajah on his arrival at Benares, when we observe that by the instructions he received for his guidance, previous to his departure from Calcutta, the arrangements he was to make with Cheyt Sing were

to be consonant to the mutual relation and actual engagements subsisting between the Company and him.

49. The imprisonment of his person in the midst of his country, which for time immemorial has been the residence of the most respectable persons of Hindostan, thereby disgracing him in the eyes of his subjects and others was unwarrantable and highly impolitic, and may tend to weaken the confidence which the native princes of India ought to have in the justice and moderation of the Company's Government.

50. The resolutions of the Court of Directors on your proceedings relative to Cheyt Sing are as follow:

“That it appears to this Court that on the death of Sujah Dowlah in 1775, a treaty was made by his successor by which the zemindarry of Benaris, with its dependencies, was ceded in perpetuity to the East India Company”.

“That it appears to this Court that Rajah Cheit Sing was confirmed by the Governor General and Council of Bengal in the management of the said zemindary (subject to the sovereignty of the Company) on his paying a certain tribute, which was settled at *sicca* rupees 22,66,180, and that the Bengal Government pledged itself that the free and uncontrouled possession of the zemindarry of Benaris and its dependencies should be confirmed and guaranteed to the Rajah and his heirs for ever, subject to such tribute; and that no other demand should be made upon him, nor any kind of authority or jurisdiction exercised within the dominions assigned him, so long as he adhered to the terms of his engagements”.

“That it appears to this Court that the Governor General and Council did, on the 5th July 1775, recommend to Rajah Cheyt Sing to keep up a body of 2000 horse, but at the same time declared there should be no obligation on him to do it”.

“That it appears to this Court that Rajah Cheyt Sing performed his engagements with the Company in the regular payment of his tribute of *sicca* rupees 22,66,180”.

“That it appears to this Court that the conduct of the Governor General towards the Rajah, whilst he was at Benaris, was improper; and that the imprisonment of his person, thereby disgracing him in the eyes of his subjects and others, was unwarrantable and highly impolitic, and may tend to weaken the confidence which the native princes of India ought to have in the justice and moderation of the Company's Government”.

51. Such further resolutions as we may think proper to come to on this very important subject will be communicated to you by a future conveyance; but we cannot avoid remarking that by the Governor General's last narrative the real object of his journey to Benares was to exact from Cheyt Sing 40 or 50 lacks of rupees, or to remove him from his zemindarry, as appears by a confidential conversation which passed between the

Governor General and Mr. Wheler (as stated in the narrative) previous to the Governor General's departure.

52. We have permitted Messrs. Thomas Brown and Henry Dogherty to proceed to Bengal to practice as barristers in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

53. Mr. Patrick Kelly, whom we appointed a cadet for Bombay this season, is removed to Bengal and takes rank next below Mr. Davis Sloane.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/John  
Harrison / Henry. Savage / George  
Tatem/John Smith/George Cuming/  
R. Hall/Step. Lushington/Joseph  
Sparkes/John Hunter/Jac. Wilkin-  
son/J. Roberts.

London,  
the 28th August 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

Received per *Bristol* man of war, 28th April 1783.

No. 1.

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LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1782

*The critical state of the English on the Coromandel coast.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

In addition to our letter of yesterday's date<sup>1</sup> we are to acquaint you that, having had a further communication with His Majesty's ministers upon the critical situation of our affairs on the coast of Coromandel, we have written the enclosed letter to our Presidency of Fort St. George<sup>2</sup>, to which we desire your particular attention, in order that our servants there may be assisted in providing the loan therein mentioned should they not be able to procure it at Madras, and should they make application to you for that purpose.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

London,  
the 6th September 1782.

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/  
John Harrison.

From the Secret Committee, dated 6th September 1782.

## LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1782

*Prohibition of employment of uncovenanted persons—retrenchment of monthly writers.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you on the 28th of August by the following ships, which sailed on their voyage the 11th instant, viz., *Bristol* man of war, *Duke of Athol*, *Francis*, *Rodney*, *Montague*, *General Coote*, *Busbridge*, *Winterlon*, and by the *Greyhound* packet.

2. We have taken up the undermentioned ships in part of the number designed to be sent to India and China the ensuing season.

		Tons			
<i>Earl of Oxford</i>	...	758	Captain John	}	Coast and Bay
			White junr.		
<i>Atlas</i>	...	758	Allen Cooper		
<i>Lord Macartney</i>	...	755	William Hall		
<i>Duke of Kingston</i>		723	Justinian Nutt		
<i>Halsewell</i>	...	758	Richard Pierce		
<i>Pigot</i>	...	758	Robert Morgan		
<i>Vansittart</i>	...	758	. . . .		
<i>Barwell</i>	...	755	Robert Carr		
<i>Fox</i>	...	758	John Blackburn		
<i>Bellmont</i>	...	758	Wm. Dick Gamage	}	Coast and China
<i>True Briton</i>	...	758	John Broadley		
<i>Stormont</i>	...	723	John Rogers		
<i>York</i>	...	758	Jno. Atkinson		
			Blanchard		
<i>Houghton</i>	...	755	James Munro	}	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>London</i>	...	758	. . . .		
<i>Lascelles</i>	...	758	Thomas Wakefield		
<i>Earl of Sandwich</i>		804	Charles Deane		
<i>Walpole</i>	...	758	. . . .		

3. As His Majesty's transports are not under the orders of the Company, and as there is a great probability of unlicensed goods being on board those ships, we direct that you be very particular in your enquiries for the discovery of such unlicensed goods, and if any shall be found the same must be seized and sold on the Company's account, and you must transmit a full and true account of all your proceedings to us.

4. We have already in our letter of the 12th July last repeated our orders of the 29th March 1774 that no person should hold any



appointment under the Company who was not regularly admitted into the service by the express authority of the Court of Directors. We are confirmed in our opinion of the necessity of these orders from observing the expence incurred by the Company on account of near 30 persons holding offices who are not covenanted servants, which amounts to no less a sum than £20,000 a year.

5. When we consider that by your late regulation for the management of the revenues a great number of our servants of long standing are totally out of employ we cannot but express our astonishment that persons should have been appointed Salt Agents, Deputy Paymasters, Commissioners etc., who are not in our service and many of whom remain in India even without our licence.

6. We do therefore most positively forbid the like in future and direct that every person not in the Company's service who may be employed in those, or any other stations, be forthwith removed and our own covenanted servants appointed in their stead.

7. We likewise observe that the charge for monthly writers at your Presidency amounts to upwards of £4,000 a year. This is not only a great expence to the Company but is likewise extreamly injurious to our interests, as our junior servants are thus kept out of employment and must of course run into dissipation. Nor is this the only evil since for want of being trained in that regular official line of business, which is so necessary to a perfect knowledge of our affairs, they contract habits of idleness, conceive a contempt for many material parts of their duty, and when they advance in station find themselves ignorant of the Company's concerns.

8. We therefore hereby direct that all monthly writers be forthwith discharged and their places supplied by our own junior servants; but should any of these refuse to act in the different offices such persons must be immediately suspended from the service, and remain so till our pleasure shall be known.

9. We shall expect that the directions, which we have thus thought it absolutely necessary to give, be implicitly obeyed, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and which we will not suffer to be evaded by any private recommendation or any other person whatsoever. And we likewise require you to send us by every ship a list of covenant servants with their employments, that we may be enabled to judge how far our orders in this respect shall have been rendered effectual.

10. The owner of the *Veteran*, one of His Majesty's store ships, has obtained our leave to dispose of the ship in India under a penalty not to sell her to any European nation except the English, nor to any of the country powers in the East Indies without the leave and permission of the Company's Governor and Council or Chief or Resident where the ship shall be disposed of. We enclose copies of the

agreement and bond entered into by Mr. Robertson for your guidance on this occasion.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/George Cuming/  
Jas. Moffatt / Jac. Wilkinson / F.  
Baring/Jacob Bosanquet/W. Bens-  
ley/John Manship/George Tatem/  
John Roberts / R. Hall / Joseph  
Sparkes/John Harrison.

London,  
the 26th September 1782.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 4.

Received and read in Council 15th August 1783.

Orders passed 25th August per *Halsewell*.

#### ENCLOSURE 1

(*Vide paragraph 10.*)

Articles of agreement indented, had made, concluded and agreed on this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two, between the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies of the one part and William Robertson of Clapham in the country of Surry [Surrey], gentleman of the other part.

Whereas the Honorable the Commissioners for victualling His Majesty's Navy have hired and taken up on freight the ship called *Veteran*, whereof the said William Robertson is the owner, for the purpose of carrying provisions and naval stores for the use of His Majesty's fleet employed in India, and whereas the said William Robertson, the owner of the said ship, hath applied to the said United Company for leave to sell and dispose of the said ship in India, and the Court of Directors of the said United Company have taken the application of the said William Robertson into consideration and have given the said William Robertson leave and licence to sell and dispose of the said ship in India, under the terms and restrictions hereafter mentioned, now this indenture witnesseth and the said William Robertson doth hereby for himself, his executors and administrators covenant, promise and agree to and with the said United Company that the said ship shall be sold and disposed of in India, immediately after she hath landed or otherwise disposed of and discharged her said cargo of stores and provisions, or as soon after as conveniently

may be; and also that the said ship shall not be sold to the Dutch, French, Spaniards or any other European nation except to the English, and also that the said ship shall not be sold or disposed of to any of the country powers without the leave or permission of the said United Company's Governor and Council, Chief or Resident at such place where the said ship shall be sold and disposed of, and also that when the said ship shall be sold and disposed of he, the said William Robertson, shall and will cause, or procure the purchaser or purchasers thereof to give security to the said United Company's Governor and Council that such purchaser or purchasers shall not, or will [not] sell or dispose of the said ship to the Dutch, French or Spaniards or to any other European power except to the English, and also that the said ship shall not be sold to any of the country powers without the leave or permission of the said United Company's Governor and Council, Chief or Resident at such place where the said ship shall be sold. In witness whereof, to one part of these indentures the said William Robertson hath set his hand and seal and to the other part thereof the said United Company have caused their common seal to be affixed the day and year above written.

Dated 11th September 1782.

William Robertson (L.S.)

Sealed and delivered (being first duly stamped) in the presence of  
J. Maddocks/R. Owen.

## ENCLOSURE 2

*(Vide paragraph 10)*

[1] Know all men by these presents that I, William Robertson of Clapham in the Country of Surrey, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies in the sum of ten thousand pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said United Company or their certain attorney, successors or assigns, for which payment to be well and faithfully made I bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators and every of them firmly by these presents, sealed with my seal dated the eleventh day of September, in the twenty second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two.

[2] The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounden William Robertson, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns do well and truly observe, perform, fulfill, accomplish, pay and keep all and singular the covenants, grants, articles, clauses, provisoes, payments, conditions and agreements whatsoever, which on the part and behalf of the said William Robertson, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns

are or ought to be observed, performed, fulfilled, accomplished, paid and kept, comprised or mentioned in certain articles of agreement bearing date with these presents and made, or expressed to be made, between the said United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies of the one part and the said William Robertson of the other part in all things according to the true intent and meaning of the same, then this present obligation to be void and of none effect, or else to be and remain in full force, power and virtue.

William Robertson (L.S.)

Sealed and delivered (being first duly stamped) in the presence of  
J. Maddocks/R. Owen.

Copy

Agreement and bond with the owner of the *Veteran* store ship.  
No. 21.

10

## LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1782

*King's naval force for India—unsettled state of affairs in Europe—  
exhortation to stop war in India.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

[1] This letter is purposely to advise you that about the middle of next month the following ships will take their departure from England, viz.,

Ships			Commanders	Consignments
<i>Halsewell</i>	...	...	Richard Pierce	Coast and Bay
<i>Barwell</i>	...	...	Robert Carr	
<i>Pigot</i>	...	...	Robert Morgan	
<i>Atlas</i>	...	...	Allen Cooper	
<i>Duke of Kingston</i>			Justinian Nutt	
<i>Lord Macartney</i>	...		William Hall	
<i>Earl of Oxford</i>	...		John White junr.	
<i>Vansittart</i>	...		William Agnew	Coast and China
<i>Stormont</i>	...	...	Robert Fairful	
<i>True Briton</i>	...	...	Henry Farrer	
<i>York</i>	...	...	Jno. Atkinson	
			Blanshard	
<i>Lascelles</i>	...	...	Thomas Wakefield	
<i>Houghton</i>	...	...	James Munro	
<i>London</i>	...	...	John Eastabrooke	



Ships			Commanders	Consignments
<i>Walpole</i>	...	...	Henry Churchill	St. Helena, Bencoolen and China
<i>Earl of Sandwich</i>	...	...	Charles Deane	Coast and China
<i>Belmont</i>	...	...	Wm. Deik Gamage	} Coast and Bay
<i>Fox</i>	...	...	John Blackburne	
<i>Prime</i> , Company's ship laden with naval stores.				

And about the middle or latter end of February, the five under-mentioned will likewise be on their departure.

Ships			Commanders	Consignments
<i>General Elliott</i>	...	...	John Cotton	} Bombay
<i>Besborough</i>	...	...	Alexr. Montgomerie	
<i>Glatton</i>	...	...	Charles Drummond	
<i>Sullivan</i>	...	...	Stephen Williams	Bombay and China
<i>Raymond</i>	...	...	Joseph Hall	St. Helena and Bombay

[2] Of the naval force which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order for the East Indies, the ensuing season, three ships of the line and a frigate are upon the eve of sailing and will convey to you this letter. Three ships of the line and two frigates will accompany the first division of the Company's ships, on which will be embarked two thousand troops and about four or five hundred of the Company's recruits; and by the best information we have been able to obtain two ships of the line at least will sail shortly after the departure of the first convoy.

[3] We have directed our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay to consult with the Admiral to the best method to be pursued for the security of the ships, composing the first fleet, on their approaching the coast of India. For their fuller information and guidance we have enclosed to them copy of the heads of such cautionary instructions as are proposed by the admiralty to be given to the commanding officer of the convoy going to the East Indies, and which we shall send to the Select Committee at Bombay by the Company's packet the *Nancy*, now under dispatch, with the most positive directions to conform thereto in every particular. And our Select Committee at Madras are enjoined to convey the latest intelligence of the state of affairs on the coast to Anjengo, that upon the approach of the first fleet the commander of His Majesty's ships may be fully informed thereof in order to provide for his own safety and for the safety of the ships under his convoy.

[4] The state of affairs in Europe at present is so very unsettled that we cannot give you more complete information on that head [than] may be collected from the following enclosures.

The King's speech at the opening of the present session of Parliament,

Copy of a letter from the Right Honorable Thomas Townshend, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, to the Court of Directors, dated the 3rd December 1782.

[5] As we have received no later advices from your Presidency than those of the 8th of April last, we are unable to judge of the situation of our affairs. But we hope that no opportunity will be lost that can enable you, in conjunction with our other Presidencies, to put an end to the present ruinous and expensive war, and that you will turn all your thoughts to the attainment of this most desirable object.

[6] We have written similar letters to our other Presidencies. Should those letters fall into your hands you must not fail to forward them in the most secret and expeditious manner possible.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

London,  
[the] 19th December 1782.

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/John  
Harrison.

Received from Madras 28th August 1783.

11

LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1783

*Steps to prevent unlicensed persons from proceeding on Company's ships—estates of Sir Thomas Rumbold and Peter Perring to be discovered—fixed leases of land cancelled—Captain Wood's claims rejected—customs regulations criticized—the Nawab Vazir's gift to the Governor General not his personal property—Rennell's map of Hindustan.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. His Majesty's ship *Cato* conveyed to you our last letter, dated the 26th of September, transcripts of which are sent in the packets of the ships now under dispatch.

2. Since the date of our beforementioned advices we have received two transcripts of your letter of the 8th of April last overland; but as neither of them contained the plan for keeping up the investment by private subscription, we are unable to give you our sentiments thereon.

3. The following is a complete list of the ships taken into the Company's service this season, viz.,

		Tons		
<i>Barwell</i>	...	755	Captain Robert Carr	} Coast and Bay
<i>Halswell</i>	...	758	Richard Pierce	
<i>Pigot</i>	...	758	Robert Morgan	
<i>Atlas</i>	...	758	Allen Cooper	
<i>Duke of Kingston</i>		723	Justinian Nutt	
<i>Lord Macartney</i>		755	William Hall	
<i>Earl of Oxford</i>	...	758	John White junr.	
<i>Vansittart</i>	...	758	William Agnew	
<i>Bellmont</i>	...	758	William Dick Gamage	
<i>Fox</i>	...	758	John Blackburn	
<i>Stormont</i>	...	723	Captain Robert Fairfull	} Coast and China
<i>True Briton</i>	...	758	John Broadley	
<i>York</i>	...	758	John Atkinson Blanchard	
<i>Lascelles</i>	...	758	Thomas Wakefield	
<i>Houghton</i>	...	755	James Munro	
<i>London</i>	...	758	John Eastabroke	
<i>Earl of Sandwich</i>		804	Charles Deane	
<i>General Elliott</i>	...	755	.....	} Bombay
<i>Besborough</i>	...	870	Alexander Montgomerie	
<i>Glatton</i>	...	758	Charles Drummond	
<i>Walpole</i>	...	758	Henry Churchill	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Raymond</i>	...	755	Joseph Hall	St. Helena and Bombay
<i>Sullivan</i>	...	755	Stephen Williams	Bombay and China

4. The above ships are taken up in general on the same terms as those of last season, as will appear by reference to their respective charterparties.

5. We have likewise fitted the Company's ship, *Prime*, Captain Philip Sharpe, for a voyage to India.

6. Our exports to the several Presidencies in India and to China, this season, will principally consist of the following articles, viz.,

#### For Fort St. George

Cloth 532 bales, long ells 20 bales, lead 50 tons, copper 604 tons, iron 100 tons, gunpowder 1200 barrels of 60 lb. each, shot and shells 200 tons, small arms 869 chests.

#### For Bengal

Cloth 1178 bales, long ells 81 bales, broad long ells 45 bales,

lead 30 tons, copper 803 tons, iron 100 tons and small arms 570 chests.

For Bombay

Cloth 686 bales, long ells 153 bales, broad long ells 27 bales, lead 30 tons, copper 403 tons, iron 300 tons and 620 chests of small arms.

For Bussorah

Cloth 149 bales.

For China

Cloth 609 bales, long ells 1250 bales, camblets 45 bales and 490 tons of lead.

7. We have thought proper to continue for this season, the prohibition of sending any articles to either our civil or military servants in India.

8. You will receive in the packets copies of the orders of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council permitting the Company to export warlike stores and copper under the restrictions therein mentioned, and you must obey those orders by returning the certificates required.

9. The following gentlemen are appointed our Council of Supra Cargos at Canton, for managing the Company's affairs in China this season, viz., Mr. James Bradshaw, Mr. William Henry Pigou, Mr. George Rogers, Mr. Abraham Roebuck, Mr. Henry Browne, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. George Cuming, Mr. Alexander Bruce, Mr. Charles Edward Pigou, Mr. Henry Lane, Mr. David Lance, Mr. Thomas Freeman, Mr. Thomas Kuyck Van Mierop.

10. Notwithstanding the attention which we have paid to preventing unlicensed persons proceeding to the East Indies on board the Company's ships means have been found to elude our vigilance in that respect; it is therefore our positive order that, upon the arrival of any of the Company's ships at your Presidency, you do make the strictest enquiry whether the passengers on board have been duly licensed by us to take passage thereon, and that in case it shall appear no such permission has been granted to them, we direct that the names of the persons so described together with the name of the ship and every other particular you can collect, that may throw a light upon the subject, be transmitted to us by your next advices as we are resolved to punish very severely those commanders who shall dare to disobey our instructions in this material point.

11. And as persons have been frequently taken on board our ships in England as part of the crew and afterwards designedly left in India,



being set down as run, it is our further order that you do also particularly attend to any circumstances of this kind that may occur. and that any persons who may be found at your Presidency under the above descriptions be sent home by the next ships, as we cannot suffer such evasions of our authority to pass with impunity.

12. The following persons have obtained our permission to proceed to India as assistant surgeons, and to succeed as such in the order here named, after those who have been already recommended are provided for, viz., Christopher Williamson, James Hutton, Thomas Minchin, John Rowland, William Spottiswoode.

13. Having experienced many inconveniencies from prisoners of war being sent on the ships bound from our different Presidencies to China, we hereby positively forbid that practice and direct that all prisoners be sent to Europe on such ships as may be bound directly thither.

14. We are sorry to observe that the indexes to your consultations are often very incomplete, and as it is necessary, in order to facilitate a speedy reference to your proceedings, that the indexes should be full and accurate you must take care in future to remedy the defects complained of.

15. We have given permission to Messrs. Henry Alexander and Job Strong to proceed to India, as free mariners, on the usual conditions.

16. Mr. James Ellis proceeds to his station of second surgeon on your establishment, per *Barwell*.

17. As the Board of Trade have of late years discontinued to insert in the invoices the price of raw silk, according to the different assortments, whereby we are unable to calculate the profits and loss upon each, we direct that they revert to the old method of inserting in every invoice the price at which the raw silk is purchased, according to the following example:

Assortment A at  
B at  
C at  
D at

18. Peter Reay, an apprentice to Guiseppe Poggio, the Italian spinner, who was taken by the combined fleet in August 1780, proceeds to Bengal, per *Duke of Kingston*, on the terms before advised.

19. The undermentioned military officers have our leave to return to their duty on your establishment without prejudice to their rank, viz., Captain Thomas Nicholls, Major William Watson.

20. We have permitted Mr. John de Veil to proceed to Bengal on a neutral ship, in company with two daughters of the late Lieutenant

Colonel Fischer and to reside there one year, for the sole purpose of assisting them in the recovery of their property.

21. Mr. Charles Boddam has our permission to proceed to his station as writer on your establishment, on one of our ships bound to Bombay.

22. We have permitted Mr. James Dunkin to proceed to Bengal, to practice as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

23. We have given permission to Lieutenant Mouat, lately appointed a practitioner engineer on your establishment, to proceed to his station on the *Lord Macartney* without prejudice to his rank.

24. When we gave directions in February 1781 that Captain Thomas Metcalfe should succeed to the post of Military Storekeeper General at your Presidency we did not mean in the least to reflect on the character and conduct of Mr. William Atkinson, Deputy Military Storekeeper; we do therefore recommend to you to nominate Mr. Atkinson to such a station as may be suited to his abilities; and upon Mr. Medcalf's [Metcalfe's] vacating the post of Military Storekeeper General Mr. Atkinson is to be appointed thereto, provided you shall deem him duly qualified for the office, and that he shall not previously have been otherwise provided for.

25. We have resolved to send 120 cadets to Bengal this season; their rank will be advised hereafter.

26. We have likewise, agreeably to the recommendation in your General Letter of 29th December 1781 to appoint cadets in future expressly to the infantry, artillery or cavalry, appointed 26 cadets purposely for your artillery; but should that number be found too many for that corps, in that case we direct that part of them be placed in the infantry, and that they rank as the last cadets of this season. In the appointment of the above cadets particular attention has been paid to their having received an education suitable to the artillery corps.

27. The following persons have our permission to return to their respective ranks and stations on your civil establishment, viz., Mr. Thos. Philip Broughton, Mr. George Cuming.

28. As our Presidency of Fort Marlborough will stand in great need of supplies it is our positive injunction that you comply with their indents in the fullest manner, to the utmost of your power.

29. We have permitted Sir John Zoffany to proceed to India to exercise his profession of a portrait painter.

30. Of so much importance do we consider the preventing unlicensed persons proceeding on board our ships that, since writing the former

part of this letter, we have thought proper to form sundry regulations for the more effectually preventing that evil, and at the same time that we must repeat the directions contained in the paragraphs, we refer you, for your information, to the copies of the abovementioned Regulation, now forwarded in the packet.

31. And here we cannot but particularly advert to a recent instance of disobedience of our orders in the commander of the *Fairford*, by his taking on board that ship a Mrs. Cargill without any permission from us for that purpose; and we positively direct that if she should be landed at your Presidency, you cause her to be sent home by the first conveyance. We shall take proper notice of Captain Haldane's conduct on this occasion upon his return to England.

32. In our letter of the 12th May 1780, we advised you that we had resolved that the commanders of our ships should severally enter into a bond not to take more than we had allowed for the passage and accommodation of writers, lieutenants, ensigns and cadets entertained at their table, and enclosed copies of the bond for your information, notwithstanding which we have reason to believe that several commanders have taken more than the sums allowed by the said bond for the passage and accommodation of persons under these descriptions. We therefore, hereby, repeat the orders contained in the said letter, and strictly enjoin you to be very particular in your enquiries whether any of the commanders have taken more than they are allowed by our orders, and acquaint us therewith.

33. By an Act of the last session of Parliament, for restraining Sir Thomas Rumbold<sup>1</sup> Baronet and Peter Perring<sup>2</sup> Esquire from going out of this kingdom for a limited time, and for discovering their estates and effects, and preventing the transporting or alienating the same, it is enacted that authenticated copies of the particulars, or inventories, directed by the said Act to be delivered upon oath to the Lord Chief Baron or Barons of His Majesty's Exchequer, shall be sent to the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal and to the Mayor's Court at Fort St. George and Bombay respectively, for the purposes therein specified. We, in compliance with the said Act, now transmit, in triplicate, authenticated copies of the said particulars or inventories, which must be delivered to the Supreme Court of Judicature at your Presidency and which copies the judges of the said Court are required by the above-mentioned Act to enter on record within eight days after the receipt thereof; and as in case of discovery of concealed estates and effects in India of the persons before mentioned it is directed by the said Act that it shall and may be lawfull for the Governor General and Council of Bengal, and the Governor and Council of Fort St. George and Bombay respectively, to sue for and recover the estate and effects, so discovered, in the name of the Company, we direct that you be particularly attentive to any circumstances of concealment and proceed accordingly.

34. The granting *mocurrery* or fixed leases being contrary to our positive orders of the 24th December 1776, paragraph 44. and 23rd December 1778, paragraph 130, we cannot but express our astonishment at your having given perpetual leases for the farm of the purgunnah of Tellaurah, the zemindarry of Baharbund, the purgunnahs of Havelly, Hajepore and Tuppah Murvah, and many of the principal districts in the Patna province. We positively direct that you procure these leases to be cancelled in such mode as shall be agreeable to justice in respect to the parties to whom they are made, and we repeat our orders, that you do not grant fixed leases in future on any pretence whatever. As the expediency of letting the lands for a longer period than one year, or in perpetuity, is a great political question on which, in the present critical situation of our affairs, we cannot at this time come to any determination you are to be guided by our beforementioned orders on the subject until you shall receive our further instructions. And as you have granted these perpetual leases contrary to our positive orders we shall hold you responsible for the consequences should any expence or difficulty arise in procuring their resumption. But we do not mean hereby to dispossess the present holders of their lands. On the contrary they are to continue to possess them, from year to year, so long as they pay their rents and otherwise behave to your satisfaction.

35. Having perused your consultations on the subject of the charges brought by Mr. Booth against the Chief and Council at Patna, as mentioned in your Revenue Letter to the Court of the 25th November 1780, paragraphs 63 to 66, we direct that the whole matter be sifted thoroughly to the bottom; and if any of the said charges shall be brought home to the parties accused we hope and expect that such measures will be taken to make them answer for the same in the Supreme Court of Judicature or otherwise as you shall judge proper. Your proceeding in the investigation of this business with zeal, temper and impartiality will give great satisfaction to your employers, and you must not fail to acquaint us with the result. By punishing such individuals as may justly become the objects of our displeasure, and which we are unalterably determined to do, we hope to rescue the servants of the Company from that general prejudice which they have too long laboured under in this country.

36. The preceding paragraph was written previous to the receipt of your letter of the 5th May 1781, wherein you acquaint us that Mr. Booth having withdrawn himself from the Presidency, and denied that he possessed any knowledge of the facts on which he grounded his accusation against the members of the Patna Council, you saw no just ground to warrant the continuance of the prosecution, and that you had therefore closed the subject with their acquittal. The reasons for stopping any further enquiry are far from being satisfactory to us as the truth or falsehood of some of the accusations might have been ascertained without the evidence of Mr. Booth. The collusive sale of the two houses, and of the property sold to Mr. Bright's *moonshy*, must, if true, be matters of public notoriety. It was in your power to have had them valued upon



the spot, and your own books would have shewn you what they produced. We therefore positively direct that you resume the enquiry and acquaint us with the result.

37. The conduct of Mr. Booth in declining to stand forth in support of his charges, and leaving Calcutta contrary to the orders of the Board, is extremely culpable. We therefore direct that Mr. Booth be called upon for his evidence in support of the charges, and that you transmit to us the whole of the proceedings that we may finally determine thereupon. Should Mr. Booth's allegations appear to be without foundation we direct that you suspend him from the service until our further pleasure shall be known.

38. We have considered of Captain Wood's application to be allowed four month's pay on account of his being employed by the Secret Committee in carrying dispatches to India, and very much approve of your having referred this claim to our decision. As Captain Wood was allowed his travelling expenses, and as it is quite unusual for officers to receive pay during their absence, we cannot comply with his request.

39. Having a very favorable opinion of the abilities of Mr. William Kerrill Amherst, of your civil service, we take this opportunity of recommending him to your notice and direct that he be nominated to the first vacant advantageous post that may be consistant with his rank in our service, and for which he may appear qualified.

40. We have resolved to send 34 writers to Bengal this season, and have entertained the following persons, in part of the said number, viz., Charles Taylor, George Charles Meyer, John Ramsay, Henry Forster, Thomas Abraham, John Routledge, Thos. Godfrey Lushington.

41. Your advices and consultations respecting the new plan for the management of the customs have been very attentively perused and considered. As the arrangement was avowedly formed not so much by the desire of encreasing the customs as of promoting the internal commerce of the provinces, by the removal of restrictions and oppressions, we are much concerned to find so many instances, upon your records, of its having produced a contrary effect. The complaints from Serool on the borders of Burdwan, in particular, are very alarming. The enormous tax of 15 per cent upon thread alone could not fail to produce the consequences which followed, viz., that not an anna's worth of thread is brought to market nor a piece of cloth manufactured. This we do not wonder at when it is stated that the whole tax upon cloth amounts to upwards of 36 per cent.

42. It is certainly a most impolitic measure for many reasons to tax the materials for manufacture at so high a rate, more especially as in the present instance the Company's investment must be very materially affected thereby; equally impolitic, in our opinion, is the tax laid on rice and the other necessaries of life. This also will be felt in the investment as it will be the means of raising the price of the manufactures.



43. So much depends on local knowledge that it is impossible for us to give any specific direction upon the subject. We are well aware that the introduction of new modes, though they be really beneficial, is too apt to produce murmurings from a natural prejudice in favor of old customs, and a dislike to whatever bears the appearance of innovation. We therefore would willingly believe that from these causes proceeded Captain Stewart's declaration that there are few individuals in the town of Calcutta who have not experienced the operation of authority in some department or other of the customs, very different from what it was the meaning of the Board it should be exercised.

44. However, it is a matter well worthy of the greatest attention. We confess that we do not think the subject has had that mature consideration which the importance of it so highly deserves. Mr. Wheler, though he concurred in adopting the new regulations, seems to confirm us in this opinion where he says that the period of the decline of trade was an ill chosen one for adding new burthens. If, as Mr. Wheler has asserted, the import and export trade of Bengal has of late years considerably decreased you certainly ought to have been extremely careful how you adopted any measure which had a tendency to encrease the evil.

45. Seeing therefore the necessity of some mode being thought of for recovering the drooping commerce of Bengal we recommend it to you, in the most earnest manner, to take the subject into your early consideration. After tracing the causes of the decline you will be the better enabled to apply a remedy. But even you yourselves with all the advantage of a residence upon the spot, and with the best inclination to adopt some salutary regulation for the benefit of the country over which you are deputed to preside, will not be able to lay down a perfect and invariable system. An anxious attention to circumstances as they arise can alone enable you to remedy defects, as by gradual improvement the people will be induced to acquiesce more chearfully in a total change of system.

46. We wish to see every obstruction to a free commerce removed. But as we have before observed it is impossible for us to lay down any specific rule. We therefore again recommend to you to take the matter into your most serious consideration, that such wise measures may be pursued as will ultimately tend to the good of the country and the ease, prosperity and happiness of those under our Government.

47. Whatever regulations may be adopted it is absolutely necessary that the *chowkies*, under the appointment of the zemindars, should be prevented from continuing their exactions. The zemindars cannot complain of this, as we find by your proceedings that when the customs were brought under the controul of the Company, and the inferior *chowkeys* appointed by the zemindars were in consequence removed, a proportional abatement was made in their rents. How it happens that

the regular customs were not by this means increased we are at a loss to know, and we were surprized to find that though the amount of the deduction from the annual revenue was 9,77,227 yet the customs, on a medium of 6 years, have produced only 7,29,433.

48. It is impossible to lay the inferior officers employed in the collection of the customs under too great restriction. We are led to this observation from a complaint upon your records of the improper behaviour of some of them in the *buzars* at Calcutta. The farmer of the *buzar* duty ought not to be molested in making his collection, and the venders of grain should be at liberty to carry it to such markets as they may prefer.

49. The amount of fees on a *rowannah* appears to be very exorbitant. We find it stated that goods to the amount of 1 lack pay a fee to the Collector of rupees 250 where 2 rupees were paid formerly, and that, as the 15th Regulation stands, the fee on 1 lack may amount to a thousand rupees. We agree entirely with Mr. Wheler that the commerce of the country is thus loaded with a charge which it can ill support.

50. One of the complaints from Serool is that every man who purchases 8 annas worth of rice or any other article is obliged to go 80 miles for a passport to convey it from the market to his own house, though the distance may not be one mile, or he is liable to the payment of double duties. This is another instance how little attention was paid to the real utility of the plan when you resolved upon its institution.

51. We remark likewise that the zemindars of Beerboom have complained that the Collector at Serool collect[s] money upon travellers and passengers, and upon two or three occasions when the wives of Bengalee men have been carried from the habitation of their fathers to that of their husbands, ornamented with new cloaths, he has collected a duty upon them. The zemindars conclude their representation with saying that unless their complaints are redressed the trade will be entirely stopped, and Government will not only experience delays but great losses in the revenue. The Committee of Revenue likewise declare that unless some immediate steps are taken for circumscribing the powers of the officers of the customs a very considerable failure in the revenues will ensue, Mr. Wheler at the same time observing that the dissatisfaction which generally prevails from the powers of the Commissioners of the Customs very evidently appears both from the recorded and verbal complaints of all men, and that he does not see any reason to doubt the reality of the grievances which are said to exist. Therefore, we do not hesitate to pronounce that your late regulations for the management of the customs appear to us to have been made rather with a view of creating lucrative posts for a certain description of men, than with any design either of encreasing the revenue or of promoting commerce. And we are confirmed in the opinion by the enormous percentage which you have

fixed for the commission on the amount of the collections. If we only take the customs at 8,26,346, which is the amount of their estimated produce for 1782 (as appears by your letter of the 8th April last), 15 per cent on that sum will be rupees 1,22,951. But when we consider that though the duty is not to be paid on the Company's investment you have notwithstanding permitted the Commissioners to draw the same percentage as if it were actually collected a very considerable addition must be made to their emoluments. The other establishments under the Commissioners, from the most accurate account we have been able to form, amount to upwards of 2 lacks per annum so that the total expence of collecting that part of our revenue which is to produce no more than 8 lacks cannot be estimated at less than 3 lacks, though we cannot account for your having estimated the customs at only 8 lacks when we understand that in former years they produced a considerable deal more.

52. Upon the [.....] great reason to be dissatisfied with the late [.....] and direct that you revise your proceedings respecting the management of the customs and report to us the result for our final determination.

53. The promoting officers to superior rank, on their departure from India, with a reservation of the rights of their superiors, as was lately done in the case of Captain Kennan, being not only irregular and improper but contrary to our orders of the 10th December 1773, we cannot approve the same; and therefore positively direct that no such promotions be made in future. As the letters of the Commander in Chief and Colonel Camac are not before us we cannot, at present, determine with respect to the merits of Captain Kennan.

54. We have received a letter from our Governor General, dated Patna 20th January 1782, representing that while the Nabob Vizier was at Chunar an offer of a very considerable sum of money was made to him, both on the part of the Nabob and on that of his ministers, as a present, which he accepted without hesitation, being entirely destitute both of means and credit, whether for our service or the relief of his own necessities. The nominal sum said to be received, and in course of payment, amounts, as the Governor General has informed us, to 10 lacks of rupees of the currency of Oude. It is further stated that what has been already received has been laid out on the public service, and that the rest is to be applied to the same account, and that as soon as the whole is compleated he will transmit [.....] account thereof.

55. The Governor General has submitted to our consideration whether we will adjudge this deposit to him; but as the Act of Parliament, by which the Governor General and Council were appointed, directs "that the salaries to be allowed to the said Governor General and Council", as therein mentioned, "shall be in lieu of all fees of office, perquisites, emoluments, and advantages whatsoever, and that no fees of office, perquisites, emoluments or advantages whatsoever, shall be

accepted, received or taken by such Governor General and Council, or any of them, in any manner, or on any account or pretence whatsoever", and as the same Act further directs "that no Governor General, or any of the Council, shall directly, or indirectly, accept, receive or take of, or from any person or persons, in any manner or on any account whatsoever, any present, gift, donation, gratuity, or reward, pecuniary or otherwise, or any promise or engagement for any present, gift, donation, gratuity or reward", we cannot, were we so inclined, decree the amount of this present to the Governor General, and as it is further enacted, "that any such present, gift, gratuity, donation, or reward accepted, taken or received shall be deemed, and construed to have been received to and for the sole use of the Company", we approve of the intentions of the Governor General to appropriate the whole of this sum to the public service, and direct that he do strictly abide by the Act of Parliament in this case made and provided.

56. We repeat our orders of the 27th May 177[9], paragraphs 51 and 52, that you send us copies of all such charts and plans as you should be able to obtain; and that the commanders of country ships and others be requested, by public advertisement, to permit copies to be made of all charts and plans in their possession, and extracts of journals containing any circumstances concerning the Indian navigation not generally known; also, that you make it a condition on granting passes to vessels navigated by Europeans that, on the return of every such vessel, a copy of such part or parts of the log book or journal of the voyage which shall contain any material information for the improvement of the navigation be delivered to our Master Attendant, who is to examine it with the original and report such remarks as occur thereon. And such parts of the log books and journals as shall contain information worthy our attention, together with such charts and plans as may be obtained, we direct, be transmitted to us by the first conveyance in a separate packet, and such packet is not, in case of danger of capture by an enemy, to be destroyed with other packets.

57. We also repeat our former orders that you send us by the first opportunity a copy of Captain Ritchie's journal of his voyage round the Bay of Bengal.

58. We direct that a survey be made of Codjen and the coast to the southward of Point Palmiras, and that endeavors be used for ascertaining the position of the Schedam Rock.

59. As we do not find by your proceedings that Mr. Barwell's trustees or attornies have cancelled the lease of the house taken by you under the idea of it having been desired by Sir Eyre Coote, and as we totally disapprove and disavow the transaction, it is our order that you forthwith signify the same to the said trustees or attornies, and if they shall refuse to cancel the lease that you immediately file a bill in equity agreeable to Mr. Lawrence's opinion, recorded in your General Consultations of 22nd June 1780. In this suit it will be necessary (in case it



shall not be clearly admitted by the answers of the defendants) to prove the fact of the lease being agreed for by the vote of Mr. Barwell and the casting vote of the Governor General, the two other members of Council voting against it, and we direct that you take especial care to appeal to His Majesty in His Privy Council in case judgement in such cause shall be given against the Company in India.

60. The quantity of salt petre to be exported from our several Presidencies by the returning ships of this season must be the same as directed by our letter of the 11th January 1781, as the Company continue the same agreement with the owners of shipping for that purpose.

61. By this conveyance we send you a list of goods to be provided at your Presidency for the ships taken up for the season 1782, to which we require your implicit obedience. To the above list we have annexed an account of profit and loss on sundry articles at our sales in England, to which we refer you for your governance.

62. Major James Rennell having lately published a map of Hindostan, together with a book explanatory of its construction and of the division of its parts, and entertaining an high opinion of the merits of this performance, we have resolved to purchase a number of copies thereof for the use of our several Presidencies in India.

63. By the ships now under dispatch we accordingly forward you seven copies of the said map and book which you will receive in the box apart, agreeably to the lists of packets by the several ships whereon they will be respectively sent.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nath. Smith/John  
Harrison / Henry Savage / John  
Smith/George Tatem/Thos. Cheap/  
John Roberts/Joseph Sparkes/Jac.  
Wilkinson / Step. Lushington / R.  
Hall / George Cuming / L. Darell /  
Jas. Moffatt.

London,  
the 15th January 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 1.







## LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1783

*Prohibition against employment of non-covenanted and monthly writers reiterated.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In our letter of the 26th September last we directed the discharge of all persons, holding any appointments under the Company, who were not regularly admitted into the service by the express authority of the Court of Directors. In the fullest expectation that those directions will meet with the most implicit obedience we have resolved to appoint thirty four writers for your Presidency this season. But, lest a pretence should be sought after for evading such directions, we shall here repeat our orders, with the most positive injunctions, that you comply therewith in every particular. And that you may see that we are all of one opinion in this respect we have made it the subject of a separate letter.

2. We have already, in our letter of the 12th July last, repeated our orders of the 29th March 1774, that no person should hold any appointment under the Company who was not regularly admitted into the service by the express authority of the Court of Directors. We are confirmed, in our opinion, of the necessity of these orders, from observing the expence incurred the Company on account of near thirty persons holding offices who are not covenanted servants, which amounts to no less a sum than £20,000 a year.

3. When we consider that by your late regulations for the management of the revenues a great number of our servants, of long standing, are totally out of employ we cannot but express our astonishment that persons should have been appointed Salt Agents, Deputy Paymasters, Commissaries etc., who are not in our service, and many of whom remain in India even without our license.

4. We do therefore most positively forbid the like in future, and direct that every person not in the Company's service, who may be employed in those or in any other stations, be forthwith removed and our own covenanted servants appointed in their stead.

5. We likewise observe that the charge for monthly writers, at your Presidency, amounts to upwards of £4,000 a year. This is not only a great expence to the Company but is likewise extremely injurious to our interests, as our junior servants are thus kept out of employment and must of course run into dissipation; nor is this the only evil, since for want of being trained in that regular official line of business which is so necessary to a perfect knowledge of our affairs they contract habits of idleness, conceive a contempt for many material parts of their duty, and

when they advance in station find themselves ignorant of the Company's concerns.

6. We therefore hereby direct that all monthly writers be forthwith discharged and their places supplied by our own junior servants. But should any of these refuse to act in the different offices such persons must be immediately suspended from the service, and remain so untill our pleasure shall be known.

7. We shall expect that the directions which we have thus thought it absolutely necessary to give be implicitly obeyed, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and which we will not suffer to be evaded by any private recommendation, or on any other pretence whatsoever; and we likewise require you to send us, by every ship, a list of covenant servants with their employments that we may be enabled to judge how far our orders, in this respect, shall have been rendered effectual.

8. We are sorry to be under the necessity of reverting to our orders of the 5th July 1780, paragraph 45, relative to the sending home such persons as proceeded to India under different appointments from us, and who on their arrival relinquish those appointments. As we cannot convey our instructions on this subject more explicitly than we have already done in our beforementioned orders, with which we mean to insist on a compliance, we here repeat the same by directing that no person or persons whatever already sent, or who may hereafter be sent to India, in our service either as writer, cadet or otherwise, be permitted to resign the same in order to adopt any other mode of employment, or to engage in any line of business, incompatible with the said service; and we especially direct that no resignation be permitted in order to enable any person whatever to accept of any office or to be admitted to practise as an attorney in the Supreme Court of Judicature. But whenever any person or persons shall resign as aforesaid he or they must be required and compelled to return to England within the time limited by law, for we will not permit any person whatever to remain in India after resignation of our service without having first obtained our leave for that purpose.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nath. Smith/John  
Harrison/Heny. Savage/John Smith/  
George Tatem/Thos. Cheap/John  
Roberts/Joseph Sparkes/Jac. Wilkin-  
son / Step. Lushington / R. Hall /  
Chas. Boddam / W. Bensley / Jacob  
Bosanquet / George Cuming / W.  
Devaynes / L. Darell / Jas. Moffatt /  
John Manship/F. Baring/Jn. Town-  
son/John Hunter.

London,  
the 15th January 1783.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 2.

## LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1783

*Loss of the Earl of Dartmouth—Board to send testimonials of servants returning to England—difficulty of providing a crew for the Prime.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since writing our letter of the 15th instant, we have been advised by Mr. John Geed, late chief mate of the *Earl of Dartmouth*, of the unfortunate loss of that ship, on the island Car Nicobar, the 2[...] of June last. The *Chapman* which was in company with her at the time narrowly escaped sharing the same fate.

2. The following persons have our leave to return to their respective ranks and stations at your Presidency, viz., Messrs. Edward Golding, Thomas Pattle jun., William Makepeace Thackeray.

3. We have appointed three more cadets for your Presidency this season in addition to the number mentioned in the 25th paragraph of our letter dated the 15th January 1783.

4. We have appointed the following persons writers for your Presidency, in further part of the number agreed to be sent thither this season, viz., Messrs. George Dowdeswell, Samuel Davis, Richard Waring, John Williams, Stewart Rose, Thomas Smith, Harry Verelst Darell, Joseph Yorke Kinloch.

5. Captain Robert Mackenzie has our permission to return to your Presidency without prejudice to his rank.

6. We direct that Mr. George Cuming be reinstated in his former office of Collector at Ramgur whenever the same shall be vacant, and in the meantime that he be provided for agreeable to his rank.

7. We have permitted the following officers to return to their respective ranks and stations on your military establishment: Captains Gabriel Harper, James Home, John Cowe.

8. We direct that whenever any of our servants, civil or military, shall resign the service, or obtain your permission to return to Europe on account of health, you state to us in the most impartial manner the merits or demerits of such servants, that upon their application here to be readmitted into our service we may be enabled to judge of the propriety of complying with such requests; and this you are to consider as a standing order.



9. We have purchased the ship *Prime* on purpose to carry out marine stores for the use of His Majesty's ships in the East Indies in conformity to an Act of Parliament, passed in the 21st year of His present Majesty, Chap. 65; and we direct that when the ship shall have performed the said service she be sold or otherwise employed to the best advantage of the Company. An account of cost, outset and other necessary papers are sent in the said ship's packet.
10. Notwithstanding every exertion that has been made and every proper encouragement held out to procure seamen to man the ship *Prime* it has been found altogether impracticable. The cause is attributed to a dislike generally entertained against going on board a ship avowedly designed not to return to England. Under this difficulty application has been made to the Admiralty for assistance; and it is reasonable to suppose when it is considered of how great consequence the safe arrival of the *Prime* must be to His Majesty's fleet in the East Indies, from her being loaded with masts, that the necessary assistance will not be withheld, but in what manner it may be granted is not at present known. However, should a number of men, with their officers, be sent on board the *Prime* from any of His Majesty's ships, and should Bengal be the first port at which they may arrive in India, you must pay them such gratuities as you shall think proper, confining the same within a sum equal to the amount of their wages for the time they shall have been actually on board according to the monthly wages at which they may have been borne on the King's books.
11. We have appointed Messrs. Alfred Tufton, John Cheap and Neil Benjamin Edmonstone, writers for your Presidency, in further part of the number agreed to be sent there this season.
12. Mr. William Nathan Wrighte Hewitt has our leave to remain in England untill the departure of the latter ships of the season, without prejudice to his rank.
13. The following persons have our permission to return to their ranks and stations at your Presidency, viz., Mr. Francis Mure, Mr. John Wilton.
14. We have given permission to Mr. William Green to proceed to India as a free mariner on the usual conditions.
15. Mr. William Ogilby has our permission to proceed to Bengal in order to practice as an attorney in the Supreme Court of Judicature.
16. Mr. Charles Smith has also our permission to proceed to India for the purpose of practising there as a painter, on the usual terms.
17. The following persons have our permission to remain in England untill next season without prejudice to their respective ranks, viz., Messrs. Richard Tilghman, Edward Baber, Richard Griffith, William Marriott,

Byam Martin, Ewan Law, Isaac Baugh, Edward Smith, Nathaniel Brassey Halhed, James Wintle.

18. The following military officers have also our permission to remain in England untill next season, without prejudice to their ranks, viz., Majors James Akerman, John Fairfax, Captains Robert Rayne, Charles Bowles, Robert Kennan, Lieutenant John Henschman.

19. Directions, similar to those mentioned in paragraph 10, have been sent to Fort St. George and Bombay. In case, therefore, the *Prime* shall touch at either of those Presidencies, previous to her arrival at Bengal, and the gratuities shall have been paid there to the officers and men of the King's ships as abovementioned, our orders to you, contained in the said paragraph, are to be considered, of course, as null and of no effect.

20. Mr. Robert Lindsay, a writer of last season, has our permission to remain in England another year.

21. The following persons have our leave to proceed to their respective stations at your Presidency, viz., Messrs. John Bennet Burges, George Arbuthnot, James Le Gros, George Cheap.

22. We have appointed Messrs James Grant and Thomas Broughton, practitioner engineers for your Presidency.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nath. Smith/John  
Harrison/John Hunter/J. Manship/  
Jac. Wilkinson / George Tatem / L  
Darell / R. Hall / John Roberts /  
Joseph Sparkes / John Smith / W  
Bensley / Step. Lushington / Jas  
Moffatt/Ben. Booth/Heny. Savage.

London,  
the 23rd January 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 7.

## LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1783

*Preliminary treaty with France and Spain.*

THE Honourable the Governor General and Council at Fort William  
in Bengal.

The detention of the ships, now at Spithead, by contrary winds affords an opportunity, which the Secret Committee have ordered me to embrace, of transmitting for your information the inclosed copy of a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Grantham, just received by the said Committee. The same is in obedience to the orders of the said Committee accordingly done by,

Sir and gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

London,  
the 25th January 1783.

P. Michell,  
Secretary.

*ENCLOSURE*

St. James's, January 23rd 1783.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 p.m.

Gentlemen,

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that a messenger is just arrived from Paris with the preliminary articles between Great Britain and France, and between Great Britain and Spain, which were signed at Versailles on the 20th instant by Mr. Fitzherbert, His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, and the Ministers Plenipotentiaries of the aforesaid courts. The preliminaries with Holland are not yet signed but a cessation of hostilities with that Republic is agreed upon.

I have the honor to be  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,  
Grantham.

Chairman and Deputy Chairman of  
the East India Company.

Enclosed from Mr. Michell, 25th January 1783.

## LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1783

*The temporary brigade stationed in Oudh to be withdrawn—Nawab of Oudh to pay 37 lakhs as subsidy—restoration of the jagirs to the Begams of Oudh favoured—censure of the Governor General's treatment of Faizullah Khan—British protection for the Farrukhabad Nawab.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Having taken into our consideration the late arrangements made by the Governor General with the Vizier we shall now proceed to make such observations thereon as appear to us necessary.

2. In our letter of the 4th March 1778, we signified our disapprobation of the military regulations of 1777, respecting the province of Oude. We therefore can see no objection to the temporary brigade and the three regiments of cavalry being withdrawn from thence; indeed it appears that the Nabob was utterly unable to defray the expence of these troops. We hope that, agreeably to an intimation from the Governor General, this corps has been dissolved.

3. According to the present agreement no more troops are to be placed to the account of the Vizier than one brigade at rupees 2,60,000 per month and a regiment of sepoy at 25,000 per month, making the annual sum of about 37 lacks; and we trust he will be punctual in the payment of his subsidy. To enable him to be so we find that he has engaged to reduce his troops to regular and complete establishments, their number never to exceed the certain means of paying them, and that he has likewise agreed to adopt other oëconimal [*sic*] regulations.

4. By the 2nd article of the treaty the Nabob is permitted to resume such jaghires as he shall think proper, with a reserve that all such jaghiredars for the amount of whose jaghires the Company are guarantees shall, in case of a resumption of their lands, be paid the amount of the net collections through the Resident.

5. We do not see how the Governor General could consent to the resumption of such lands as the Company had engaged should remain in the hands of those who possessed them previous to the execution of the late treaty without stronger proofs of the Begums' defection than have been laid before us; neither can we allow it to be good policy to reduce the several jaghiredars, thus uniting the territory and the troops, maintained for the protection of that territory, under one head, who may by that means, at some future period, become a very powerfull enemy to the Company.

6. With respect to the resumption of the jaghires possessed by the

Begums in particular, and the subsequent seizure of the treasure deposited with the Vizier's mother, which the Governor General in his letter to your Board, 23rd January 1782, has declared he strenuously encouraged and supported, we hope and trust, for the honor of the British nation, that the measure appeared to be fully justified in the eyes of all Hindostan. The Governor General has informed us, "that it can be well attested that the Begums principally excited and supported the late commotions and that they carried their inveteracy to the English nation so far as to aim at our utter extermination."

7. It must have been publicly known that in 1775 the Resident at the Vizier's court not only obtained from the Begum, widow of the late Sujah Dowlah, on the Nabob's account 30 lacks of rupees, half of which was to be paid to the Company, but also the forbearance of 26 lacks, for the repayment of which she had security in land, on the Nabob's agreeing to renounce all further claims upon her, and that to this agreement the Company were guarantees.

8. We find that on the 21st of December 1775, the Begum complained of a breach of engagements on the part of the Nabob, soliciting your protection for herself, her mother and for all the women belonging to the seraglio of the late Nabob, from the distresses to which they were reduced; in consequence whereof, it was agreed, in Consultation 3rd January 1776, to remonstrate with the Vizier, the Governor General remarking, "that as the representative of our Government has become an agent in this business and has pledged the honor and faith of the Company for the punctual observance of the conditions under which the treaty was concluded you had a right to interfere, and justice demanded it if it should appear that those engagements have been violated". And the Board at the same time resolved, "that as soon as the Begum's engagements with the Nabob, to which Mr. Bristow is a party, shall be fulfilled on her part this Government will think themselves bound to protect her against any further demand or molestation".

9. If therefore the disaffection of the Begum was not a matter of public notoriety we cannot but be alarmed for the effects which the subsequent transactions must have had on the minds of the natives of India. The only consolation we feel, upon this occasion, is that the amount of those jaghires for which the Company were guarantees is to be paid through our Resident at the Court of the Vizier, and it very materially concerns the credit of your Government on no account to suffer such payments to be evaded.

10. If it shall hereafter be found that the Begums did not take that hostile part against the Company which has been represented (as well in the Governor General's narrative as in several documents therein referred to, and as it nowhere appears, from the papers at present in our possession, that they excited any commotion previous to the imprisonment of Rajah Cheyt Sing, but only armed themselves in consequence of



14 FEBRUARY 1783

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that transaction, and as it is probable that such a conduct proceeded entirely from motives of self defence, under an apprehension that they themselves might likewise be laid under unwarrantable contributions), we direct that you use your influence with the Vizier that their jaghires may be restored to them, but if they should be under apprehensions respecting the future conduct of the Vizier, and which [wish] our further protection, it is our pleasure that you afford those ladies an asylum within the Company's territories, and there [they] be paid the amount of the net collection of their jaghires, agreeably to the 2nd article of the late treaty, through the medium of our Resident, as may be ascertained upon an average estimate of some years back.

11. With respect to the third article regarding Fyzoola Khan, the Rohilla Chief, before we could form an opinion upon it we were led to an examination of such parts of your records as in any wise related to him.

12. We found that at the conclusion of the Rohilla war in 1774, a treaty was made between the late Sujah Dowlah and Fyzoola Khan whereby the latter, on certain conditions, was put into the possession of Rampore and some other districts in the Rohilla country. Though it does not appear upon the face of the treaty what equivalent was made to the Vizier, yet we find by a letter from Colonel Champion, entered on your Consultations of the 31st October 1774, that Fyzoola Khan was to give the Vizier half his treasure.

13. On the 9th March 1778, a considerable time after the death of Sujah Dowlah, you were informed, by the Resident at the Vizier's court, that there were reports of hostile intentions in Fyzoola Khan. The Resident added that the Rohilla Chief might be justly alarmed by the Nabob's resumption of a number of jaghires granted by his father, and by his oppressive conduct in general; you were likewise informed that Fyzoola Khan was solicitous to obtain the guarantee of the Company to his engagements with the Vizier, and the professed motives of the Resident for sending a deputation to Fyzoola Khan were, "that in case of the latter's acquitting himself it would give him a confidence in the Company, which might induce him to look up to that influence as the surest defence against any invasion of his right, and thereby render him a faithful, and perhaps a useful, ally upon some future emergency." On a motion of the Governor General the Resident was authorized to offer the Company's guarantee for the observance of the treaty, the Governor General at the same time observing that the many letters which he had received from Fyzoola Khan, at various times, proved the necessity of such an intervention.

14. On the 4th May following, the Resident acquainted the Board that Fyzoola Khan appeared in no respect to have violated the treaty, transmitting at the same time a new treaty under the guarantee of the Company.

15. We find that Fyzoola Khan declared to the person who negotiated this matter with him on the part of the Company, "that without the guarantee of the Company he could not look upon himself secure in his present possessions, that the Company were the only power in which he had confidence and which he could look up to for protection". There never was perhaps a treaty concluded with more solemnity. According to the report of Mr. D<sup>r</sup>. Barwell, entered on your Consultation 21st May 1781, it was signed in the presence of the greatest part of his subjects, in order to establish a firm conviction in their minds, "that it was an act fully authorized by the English Government, which was now become bound to exact with impartiality a strict observance of each article of the treaty". This business was finally settled by the Governor General being desired by the Board to write to Fyzoola Khan confirming the obligation of the Company as guarantee, and by your acceptance of a lack of rupees, on behalf of the Company, as an acknowledgment from Fyzoola Khan.

16. In November 1780, upon receiving information that the Seiks and Goodies were committing depredations in Rohilcund, we find that the Board agreed to apply to the Vizier to require from Fyzoola Khan his quota of troops, in consequence of which the Governor General wrote for 5000 horse. But judge of our surprize to find by the treaty that whenever the Vizier declared war Fyzoola Khan was to join with only 2 or 3000 men, unless the Vizier had marched in person. Where then was the justice of this demand? Fyzoola Khan replied, as appears by our Consultation 15th February 1781, that he would send 2000 horse, which were all the cavalry in his service; that the 3000 foot kept up by him were for the management of the concerns of his jaghire, and that without them the collections could not be made.

17. We cannot here avoid remarking that at the very time of your making this improper demand 500 of Fyzoola Khan's troops had actually joined our forces; though he was under no obligation to furnish the Company with a single man, but had granted this supply merely to shew his attachment to the English.

18. The beforegoing answer from Fyzoola Khan was immediately followed by a minute of the Governor General declaring that he had evaded the treaty; in consequence of which it was instantly resolved to send a deputation to insist upon its being complied with, and to demand the immediate delivery not of 5000 but of 3000 horse. To make so hasty and peremptory a demand for three thousand horse, after you had been positively assured that he had but 2000 in his service, carries with it the appearance of a determination to create a pretext for depriving him of his jaghire entirely, or to leave him at the mercy of the Nabob; and all the subsequent proceedings seem to confirm us in this idea.

19. Notwithstanding it is stated on Consultation 4th June 1781 that a flat refusal was the verbal answer to this deputation, with respect to 3000 horse, yet we find at the conference Fyzoola Khan willing to

agree, "that in compliance with the treaty, which specified no definitive number of cavalry, he would furnish 2000 horse and 1000 foot, that he would give them one year's pay in advance, and furnish further funds during the war"; on the very day you received an account of the result of this deputation, 4th June 1781, a letter is read at your Board from the Vizier, proposing to resume the grant, "and leave the Nabob Fyzoola Khan to join his other faithless brethren that were sent across the Ganges," and in lieu thereof to pay him the amount stipulated by treaty after deducting the pay of 5000 troops; and shortly after the Governor General proceeded up the country.

20. We do not find any further mention of this business until we read the following article of the new treaty with the Nabob of Oude, which was executed on the 19th September 1781, viz.,

"3rdly. That as Fyzoola Khan has by his breach of treaty forfeited the protection of the English Government, and causes by his continuance in his present independant state great alarm and detriment to the Nabob, he be permitted, when time shall suit, to resume his lands, and pay him in money, through the Resident, the amount stipulated by treaty, after deducting the amount and charges of the troops he stands engaged to furnish by treaty, which amount shall be passed to the account of the Company during the continuance of the present war."

21. The foregoing article is expressly said to be founded on a breach of the treaty by Fyzoola Khan, and yet, in the observation which the Governor General has made upon this article, he acknowledges that the conduct of Fyzoola Khan was *not* an absolute breach of treaty, though evasive and uncandid. We confess ourselves of opinion this his conduct was neither evasive nor uncandid. But admitting the fact, does it furnish a justifiable ground for breaking through a most solemn engagement? Was it a time to seize slight pretences for evading a treaty, when the most alarming confederacies were formed against the Company?

22. We fear that by observing such a conduct as this few of the country powers of India will, in future, adopt the sentiments of Fyzoola Khan in considering the Company as the only power in which they have confidence and to which they can look up for protection.

23. We do not only arraign the justice of the measure but its policy also; and if we wanted an argument upon this occasion the Governor General, in his observations upon this article of the treaty, has furnished us with an unanswerable one. "I am of opinion," says he, "that neither the Vizier's, nor the Company's interest, would be promoted by depriving Fyzoola Khan of his independency, and I have therefore reserved the execution of this agreement to an indefinite term, and our Government may always interfere to prevent any ill effects from it." We have thus agreed to commit an act of injustice by which neither the Vizier's nor the Company's interest will be promoted; and yet if

we do not suffer this injustice to take place we shall be guilty of a breach of treaty with the Vizier. It is not by such a policy as this that we can ever hope to break the confederacies and regain the confidence of the several powers of India.

24. In our letter of the 12th July last, we expressed our apprehensions for the event of the deputation sent to Fyzoola Khan, and we are sorry to find that those apprehensions were but too well founded. Fyzoola Khan had reason to expect other treatment at the hands of the Governor General. For did he not at the breaking out of the war with France, to shew his attachment to the Company, make a voluntary offer to maintain 2000 cavalry for our service? The Resident at the Vizier's court writes, under the 5th December 1778, that he found such a promptness in Fyzoola Khan to render the Company an assistance within the bounds of his finances and ability, as even surpassed his own expectations. And did you not resolve, in Consultations 28th of the same month, "that the thanks of your Board be returned to him for this mark of his faithful attachment to the Company?" In the Governor General's letter to Fyzoola Khan, upon this occasion, are the following words: "In my own name, and that of the Board, I return you our warmest thanks for this instance of your faithful attachment to the Company." And you yourselves have acquainted us, in your Secret Letter of the 1st of February 1779. that on requesting the aid of part of the offered assistance "he, without hesitation or delay, sent 500 men to cooperate with our forces."

25. Thus, in March 1778, you pledge the Company's faith for the performance of the treaty between Fyzoola Khan and the Vizier. In December following, the thanks of your Board are given to him for his attachment to the Company, in sending troops to their assistance on the breaking out of the war with France; in November 1780, you make an unwarrantable demand upon him which it not being in his power to comply with, furnishes a pretext for depriving him of his lands; and in September 1781, a treaty is finally concluded, by which his territory is wrested from him and given to the Vizier.

26. Fyzoola Khan's merits with the Company's on the one hand, and the Governor General's treatment of him on the other, must be known to all surrounding powers and if such singular marks of attention to the Company's interest and Government are to be thus requited we have reason to dread future combinations against us, which may end in the utter extirpation of the English from Hindostan. It is only by a strict regard to justice, moderation and good faith that we can hope to maintain our present footing in India.

27. As we can nowhere discover that Fyzoola Cawn has been guilty of a breach of treaty and thereby forfeited the protection of the Company, and as the Governor General has informed us that he has reserved the execution of the agreement, contained in this article, to an indefinite term, and that our Government may always interfere to prevent any ill effects from it, and as Fyzoola Khan appears to have had great merit with



the Company, in the particular instances above referred to, we direct that that article be not carried into execution and that you obtain the consent of the Vizier to Fyzoola Khan's continuing in the possession of his jaghire unmolested.

28. The 4th article of the treaty is as follows: "that no English Resident be appointed to Furruckabad, and the present one recalled". In order that we might fully understand this article we had recourse to your proceedings of the 22nd of May 1780, for the reasons of your first sending a Resident at Furruckabad. We find that Muzuffer Jung, Nabob of that place, complained of suffering hardships under the person who collected the annual tribute for the Vizier. Upon which the Governor General remarked that he is extremely desirous, as well from motives of common justice as due regard to the rank and situation which that Chief holds among the powers of Hindostan, that some means may be devised of affording him relief. The Board according on the same day appointed a person to reside at his court, and the motives for such an appointment were highly praiseworthy; we wish the real grounds for revoking the appointment had been equally so. But, on the contrary, we conceive that this removal of our Resident was rather calculated to afford the Vizier an opportunity of exercising his oppression, untrouled. And the Governor General's observation upon this article of the treaty justifies this opinion, wherein he says, "if the Nabob Muzuffer Jung must endure oppression, and I dare not at this time propose his total relief, it concerns the reputation of our Government to remove our participation in it." But wherein did this political necessity consist? In our opinion it concerned the reputation of our Government much more to have removed the oppression altogether than to have sanctified that oppression by an article in a formal treaty. To say that Muzuffer Jung himself desired the removal of the Resident, as is represented by the Governor General in the appendix to his narrative, can have little weight in the argument, since it was always in your power to have punished any improper conduct in the Resident, or to have nominated in his room one on whom you could depend. And when the Nabob expressed such a desire was he acquainted with the previous determination of the Vizier to heap oppression on him, and that too under the sanction of the British Government?

29. It is true that Muzuffer Jung does not stand in the same relation to the Company as Fyzoola Khan but still "those motives of common justice, and a due regard to the rank and station held by that Chief among the princes of Hindostan", which actuated your Board upon a former occasion, ought certainly to have had some weight in the present instance. We trust, however, that by means of the mutual good understanding which the Governor General, in his observations on this article of the treaty, says subsists between the Vizier and himself, you will have frustrated the intended oppression towards the Nabob of Furruckabad, and they [thus] have preserved the honor of the Company.

30. And as you have before stood forth in the protection of this



Nabob, in a manner worthy of the British character, we wish that the same protection may be continued to him, and we recommend it to you to use your influence with the Vizier in order to shield him from that oppression which, it highly concerns the credit of the British name, should not be exercised upon him.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/  
John Harrison/ George Tatem/  
Henry. Savage/Step. Lushington/  
Joseph Sparkes/ John Smith/John  
Hunter/L. Darell/R. Hall/Ben.  
Booth/Jac. Wilkinson.

London,  
the 14th February 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

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## LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1783

*Details about the signing of the treaty with France—precautions for safety of shipping.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. On the 30th of November last, provisional articles were signed at Paris by His Majesty's Commissioner and the Commissioners of the United States of America, to be inserted in and to constitute a treaty of peace between His Majesty and the said United States when terms of peace should be agreed upon between Great Britain and France.

2. On the 20th of January following, preliminary articles of peace between His Britannick Majesty and the most Christian King, and between His Britannick Majesty and the King of Spain, were signed at Versailles.

3. On the 3rd instant, the ratifications of the said preliminary articles between Great Britain and France were exchanged by the Ministers of each respective power, and on the 9th instant, the ratifications of the preliminary articles between Great Britain and Spain were likewise exchanged.

4. On the 14th instant, His Majesty issued his Royal Proclamation, a copy of which has been sent, declaring that a cessation of arms, as well by sea as by land, had been agreed upon between His Majesty, the most Christian King, the King of Spain, the States General of the United

Provinces and the United States of America, and enjoining the observance thereof.

5. We have sent copies of such of the preliminary articles with the French as in any wise relate to the East Indies.

6. You will observe by the 22nd article that, in order to prevent all causes of complaint and dispute which may arise on account of prizes, which may be made at sea after the signing of the preliminary articles, it is reciprocally agreed that the vessels and effects which may be taken beyond the equinoctial line after the space of five months, to be computed from the ratification of the said preliminary articles, shall be restored on each side.

7. Though we have not yet received information of the preliminary articles between Great Britain and Holland being executed it is necessary you should be informed that, by His Majesty's proclamation, before mentioned, it is agreed that the cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and Holland and between Great Britain and the United States of America shall be agreeable to the epochs fixed with the French. The term therefore (according to the said proclamation) for the cessation of hostilities to take place between Great Britain, France, Holland and America beyond the equinoctial line is five months from the 3rd of February. The time for the cessation of hostilities to take place with Spain, for the like distance, is five months from the 9th February.

8. We have thought it absolutely necessary to send you the earliest account of these particulars, as well to prevent the effects of hostilities being continued beyond the time limited by His Majesty's proclamation as that the necessary precaution may be observed for the safety of our shipping. And we direct that no ships be dispatched for Europe till after the 9th of July next, when the commanders must be ordered to make the best of their way to St. Helena, and after staying there a reasonable time to refresh their people to proceed directly for the River Thames.

9. So soon as we shall be informed of the ratification of the definitive treaty between Great Britain and France we shall give you the most explicit instructions upon the several articles therein contained relative to the East Indies, our observations upon each, with directions in regard to the cessions to be made to France in consequence of the treaty.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/John  
Harrison/George Tatem/Jac. Wilkin-  
son/L. Darell/R. Hall/Thos. Cheap/  
J. Manship / John Hunter / Chas.  
Boddam/ Step. Lushington/ Jacob  
Bosanquet/W. Devaynes.

London,  
the 28th February 1783.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal.

## LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1783

*Lists of civil servants to be sent annually—samples of muslins manufactured at Manchester—Bengal manufacturers to improve the quality of their muslin—illicit goods suspected on ship Barwell.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since closing our letter of the 23rd ultimo, the *Valentine* has arrived, by which ship we have received the following letters, viz.,

Publick Letter dated 10th April 1782.

Secret Letter of the same date.

Revenue Letter dated 11th April 1782.

Letter from the Board of Trade dated 3rd April 1782, with a postscript dated the 11th of the same month.

2. We observe that no regular accounts of the allowances to our civil servants have been hitherto transmitted from your Presidency. The lists of covenant servants usually sent (the last of which is dated so far back as March 1780) are very defective, and do not exhibit in a satisfactory manner the emoluments annexed to each office.

3. We therefore direct that you prepare and send home annually an account of the employments of our civil servants under every department at the Presidency and subordinates, with the salaries and allowances respectively enjoyed by each, corrected to the 1st of January in each year.

4. The following persons have our permission to remain in England till next season without prejudice to their rank, viz., Messrs. Thomas Lane, Robert Wilkinson.

5. We have also granted the like indulgence to Captain George Hoggan of your military establishment.

6. We have entertained Mr. William Cooke, major, as a volunteer for the pilot service in Bengal, on the same condition as the volunteers for the Bombay Marine.

7. We have appointed Messrs. Edward Archdekin and William Wilson, the former abroad and the latter a recruit at Bengal, cadets on your establishment; their rank will appear by the general list.

8. We have also appointed Mr. William Rennie a cadet on your

establishment, in the room and with the rank of Mr. Thomas Vickers of last season, who does not proceed.

9. Messrs. Thomas Man Clarke, Joseph Shaw and James Crokatt, cadets on your establishment, have our leave to proceed to the ranks formerly assigned them.

10. Mr. Smith's Christian name is William instead of Thomas, as advised in our letter of the 23rd January, para. 4. You must therefore rectify the mistake.

11. We have appointed Messrs. Thomas Lenox Napier Sturt and Humphrey Ashley Sturt writers to your Presidency, in further part of the number to be sent thither this season.

12. We transmit you, by this conveyance, three small boxes containing musters of some muslins, the produce of a manufacture that has lately been set up at Manchester in this country, together with an account of the prices at which they are retailed by the drapers, which we particularly recommend to your very serious attention and observation. The great degree of perfection to which this manufacture is already arrived, although at present only in its infant state, the prices which are 20 per cent under our own, together with the attention which, we doubt not, will unweariedly [*sic*] be applied by all the persons concerned therein towards further improvement are circumstances which cannot but justly alarm us for so important a branch of our commerce. If once the manufacturers of this country can vie with us either in the quality or price of this or any other articles of our trade we shall find them most powerful rivals at every market where those articles are vended. We doubt not, therefore, but you also will exert yourselves to the utmost in causing the manufacturers at Bengal to pay every attention, not only to an improvement of the fabric of muslins but also to a reduction of the prices, as both on the one and the other will depend very much our future success in this article.

13. And we direct that by the first conveyance after the receipt of the abovementioned samples, you transmit us your opinions thereon.

14. You were informed in our letter of 12th July 1782, paragraph 65, that we had permitted Captain Swiney Toone to return to his rank on your military establishment. He has since that time been detained in England on business of the Company but now returns to his rank and station on the *Lascelles*.

15. Having reason to suspect from the lumbered state of the ship *Barwell* that she has on board a quantity of illicit trade we direct that, on her arrival at your Presidency, she be very strictly examined, and should it be discovered that the condition of the ship has been occasioned by such improper behaviour in Captain Carr you are to report the same to us, as we are determined in that case that Captain Carr shall experience our severest displeasure.

safe, free and independent trade, such as was carried on by the late French East India Company, whether it be carried on by them as individuals or as a company. Little difficulty can occur in the execution of this article because the actual possession by France anterior to the present war will ascertain the limits of what is to be restored; and their present condition, the state in which such restoration is to be made, and the trade carried on by the French East India Company from the year 1763 will abundantly explain the nature of that free commerce which it is the object of the present article to secure to the subjects of France. And, if the French Governors or Commanders shall be desirous of establishing any regulations, from an apprehension of future interruptions to their commerce, it is our wish that you may settle such stipulations on this subject as will evince our sincere intention to secure to France the full effect of this article, and remove all occasions of dispute between the two countries.

[3] You will observe the express stipulation that Chandernagore shall be surrounded by a ditch for the purpose of carrying off the waters. By this stipulation no intention is entertained on the part of France to erect a fortification or to introduce a force which can give just cause of alarm to our Government, the intended establishment being entirely commercial; but the object of this engagement is to prevent disputes of the nature of those which have existed in Bengal; and for this purpose we direct that you will, in the most amicable manner, take the proper measures, in concert with the French Commander or Chief at Chandernagore, to ascertain the extent and form of the proposed ditch so as effectually to answer the purpose expressed in the treaty, without bearing that appearance of a fortification which may alarm the jealousy of our Government, and excite again those dissensions which have before prevailed between the two nations.

[4] By the 14th article, Pondicherry and Karrical are to be restored to France. As far as this article stipulates a restitution (in their present condition) of what France possessed before the commencement of the war no difference can possibly arise. In addition to this simple restitution His Britannic Majesty has engaged to procure, to serve as a dependency round Pondicherry, the two districts of Villenour and Bahour, and as a dependency round Karrical, the four contiguous *magans*. We therefore direct that you employ your good offices effectually to procure these cessions from Mahomed Aly, the Nabob of the Carnatic, and from the King of Tanjore; and as the safety of the territories of these princes must depend on the protection afforded by the English arms against their more powerful neighbours we doubt not but you will obtain their consent to give France possession of these additional dependencies at the same time when Pondicherry and Karrical shall be restored. Of what these cessions are to consist is perfectly understood between the two Courts; and to prevent disputes in India we inform you that Villenour and Bahour include eighty villages, and the four *magans*, contiguous to Karrical, eighty-one villages; the names and description of which, with the amount of the revenues, we have extracted from the Memorial of Monsieur Dupleix;



and these will likewise be found in the Madras Consultations of the 9th of June 1760. But should there be any difficulty on this head the officers of the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore can readily furnish you with the requisite particulars. The extent of these cessions may be further ascertained by the actual possession of France in 1754. For the time at which this restitution is made we refer you to our orders respecting the 16th article.

[5] With respect to Mahé and the French factory at Surat you are to restore these, in their present situation, as soon as you shall receive information from us that the definitive treaty shall have been ratified.

[6] You will observe that by the first article, all hostilities, by sea and land, are to cease between Great Britain and France as soon as the preliminaries are ratified, and that orders are to be sent to the Commanders of both nations for that purpose. Immediately on the receipt of these orders you will take the proper measures to prevent all further hostilities between the two nations.

[7] The 16th article is intended to extend this pacification to the allies of both parties; but as the accession of such allies must depend on their choice a term of four months is given, from the day on which the proposal shall be made to them, to make their final decision. We are extremely desirous that the computation of this period shall commence as early as possible; you will therefore, without delay, communicate to the Indian allies of both parties the terms of these preliminaries, and demand their answer; which we apprehend may be best done in concert with the French Commander. We hope the Nabob of the Carnatic and the Rajah of Tanjore will accede to the present pacification, by which measure their respective territories will be immediately protected against any direct or indirect hostility from the French, either as principals or allies. Should Hyder Aly, and all other allies which France may have, likewise accede, and retire within their respective dominions, the object of a general pacification is at once obtained.

[8] In the event of Hyder Aly, or any other ally of France, not acceding immediately the war against him or them continues, but France will immediately withdraw her troops and you will be at full liberty to act against him or them with your whole force. Notwithstanding the war shall be so carried on against Hyder Aly, or any other ally of France, before his or their accession to the proposed pacification, yet in the event that he or they shall at any time, within the stipulated period of four months, signify his or their accession, withdraw his or their forces from the territories of our allies and restore the places taken, you are then to cease all hostilities. Should Hyder Aly not be disposed to accept the pacification offered some embarrassment may arise to the French Commander in effecting a separation. In that event it is our order that you concert measures with the French Commander for securing the retreat of the French troops acting in conjunction with the troops of Hyder; and they are not only to be taken under the protection of our Commanders

but a proper place must also be appointed for them to retire to, and every aid given them in providing for their subsistence in case Pondicherry and Karrical shall be in the possession of Hyder, or threatened by him, or until the period shall arrive for delivering up those places to the French.

[9] When the terms *ancient possessions* were used in the 16th article, the two Courts intended not to support any change made during the present war in India with European powers; you are therefore to understand possessions, thus described, to mean the territories held by each power in the year 1776, before the commencement of the present war, the ministers both of France and England having agreed upon this interpretation. But as it is impossible for us to define, with any degree of accuracy, the limits of the respective territories of Hyder Aly and Mahomed Aly as they stood in 1776 we direct that you take every possible means to ascertain the same with the utmost precision.

[10] We have no doubt but that France will have withdrawn her troops from Hyder Aly long before you will receive information from us of the ratification of the definitive treaty, and consequently before any restitution is to be made. As, however, His Most Christian Majesty, desirous of evincing his sincere disposition to promote a general pacification in India, has consented not to require the restitution of Pondicherry and Karrical until his Commanders shall have withdrawn their assistance from Hyder Aly you are not to restore these places until such event has actually taken place.

[11] As this letter is circular to all our settlements you are to follow such directions as are contained herein, as far as they may have any relation to your Presidency.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/J.  
Manship/Heny. Savage/John Harri-  
son/John Smith/John Roberts/L.  
Darell/Chas. Boddam/Jac. Wilkin-  
son / George Tatem / Ben. Booth /  
Joseph Sparkes / Jn. Townson / W.  
Bensley / George Cuming / John  
Hunter/Jacob Bosanquet/F. Baring.

London,  
[the] 6th March 1783.

Company's Separate Secret Letter to Bengal.  
Received per *Crocodile*, 22nd September 1783.

and England having agreed upon this interpretation. But as it is impossible for us to define, with any degree of accuracy, the limits of the respective Territories of *Hyder Ally* and *Mahomed Ally*, at *Hydrabad* in 1760, we desire that you take every possible means to ascertain the same with the utmost precision.

We have no doubt but that *Pannu* will have withdrawn his Troops from *Hyder Ally* long before you will receive information from us of the ratification of the *Definitive Treaty*, is consequently before any restitution is to be made. We however this *Most Christian Majesty*, desirous of evincing his sincere disposition to promote a general Conciliation in India, has concluded not to require the restitution of *Andricherry* and *Haricool* until the Commanders shall have withdrawn their Assistances from *Hyder Ally*, you are not to restore these Places until such event has actually taken place.

As this letter is circular to all our Settlements, you are to follow such Directions as are contained herein, as far as they may have any relation to your Presidency.

We are

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fox

Nathaniel

Manwaring

Genl Savage

John Harrison

John Smith

John Ainslie

Le Duc

Chas. Smith

Chas. Witherspoon

George Tatum

London  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 1783

Benjamin

Joseph

Mr. Thomson

Dr. Barclay

George

John

John

John

John

John



## LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1783

*Governor General to send copies of maps and plans, and up-to-date lists of army officers.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In addition to our orders of the 15th January last, paragraph 56, we direct that you send us, so soon as possible, copies of the following maps, plans, etc.,

Copies of all the general surveys taken since the year 1776, on a scale of 5 British miles to an inch.

Plans and journals of marches of detachments from the Bengal provinces towards the Maratta countries, during the same period (Colonels Goddard's and Upton's excepted).

Plan of Colonel Pearse's march from Bengal to Madras.

Marches in the Guzerat country since 1776.

Lieutenant Watherstone's remarks between Hussungabad and Nagpour.

Mr. Elliot's remarks westward of Cuttack.

Captain Campbell's remarks between Bengal and Surat.

Marches in Cheit Sing's country in 1781.

Plan of the canal from the Salt Lake to Calcutta.

2. We have transmitted some transparent oil paper to facilitate the taking of draughts, as directed in paragraph 56 of our General Letter of the 15th January last, to send us copies of all maps, plans and charts.

3. We cannot but express our displeasure at your not having complied with our former orders. We therefore again repeat those orders and direct that correct lists of military officers, to the latest period possible, be always transmitted with returns of the army on your establishment, and that respecting every officer appointed on the staff or absent on command or stationed as commandant at any fort or garrison, such appointment, command or station be particularly specified and annexed to his name in the lists to be transmitted as aforesaid. *And we most positively* [direct] that such lists be transmitted by every ship.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nath. Smith/John  
Harrison/ John Manship/ John  
Smith/ Jacob Bosanquet/ John  
Hunter/Ben. Booth/Jac. Wilkinson/  
L. Darell/John Roberts/Jn. Town-  
son/Joseph Sparkes/Jas. Moffatt/  
Step. Lushington/Heny. Savage.

London,  
the 6th March 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

Received 4th September 1783.



## LETTER DATED 27 MARCH 1783

*Barwell's and Francis's claims disallowed.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letter to you was dated the 6th instant, and forwarded by the ships *Sullivan*, *Besborough*, *General Elliott*, *Glatton* and *Raymond* via Bombay; a transcript of which is now forwarded by the present conveyance.

2. We observe by your proceedings of the 29th June 1778, that the Board having agreed that Mr. Barwell<sup>1</sup> was entitled to a house, for his residence, at the Company's expence, he was permitted to provide himself with one leaving the Company at their pleasure to reimburse him the charge. And we likewise find that on Mr. Barwell's departure for Europe you discharged his bill for rent from the beforementioned day, amounting to current rupees 45,000.

3. As we never assented to grant Mr. [Barwell] the indulgence here specified, and as his allowances were settled by Act of Parliament, we hereby direct that his attornies be forthwith called upon to refund the said sum of current rupees 45,000, the same having been paid to him without our authority. And we cannot but express our astonishment that you should have made Mr. Barwell any allowance for house rent when by our instructions of the 28th March 1774, [paragraph] 31, we directed that the several salaries to the Governor General and Council, as established by the Act of Parliament, were to be in lieu of all fees [of] office, perquisites, emoluments or advantages whatsoever.

4. We have received an application from Mr. Barwell urging his claim of salary, as a member of the Government General of Bengal, [for] the month of March 1780. Mr. Barwell has informed us that he received his salary for the [whole] of the month of February, that upon his attornies' application for his salary for the month of March the Paymaster said he had the Governor General's orders not to pay any salary after the day that Mr. Barwell embarked on the *Swallow*. We do not find what day Mr. Barwell left Calcutta; but it appears that the last council he attended was on the 29th February 1780, that the dispatches by the *Swallow* were dated the 3rd of March and that the pilot quitted the vessel the 9th of the same month. We therefore direct that as we know not the day of Mr. Barwell's embarkation, he be paid his salary up to the [.....] March 1780. And you must observe it as [a standing] rule and order that the salary and subsistence money to any of our returning servants is to be paid them to the day of their quitting the Company's service or embarkation, whichever shall first happen.

5. Having agreed to make Mr. Barwell an allowance of £1000, in

part of the money he paid to the owner of the *Dart* privateer, for that ship's keeping company with and seeing the *Swallow* packet safe into port, we direct that this sum be deducted from the money which, by a preceding paragraph, is to be demanded of his attornies on account of the money which has been paid him for house rent.

6. As we observe by your Consultations of the 2nd of November 1780, that Mr. Francis was allowed his salary for the month of December notwithstanding the ship on which he embarked for Europe was quitted by the pilot on the 15th of that month, we direct that you demand from his attornies the amount of the salary which he received after that day. We cannot but express our disapprobation at your having paid Mr. Francis's salary to the end of December, as we have been informed that on Mr. Barwell's departure for Europe the Governor General ordered the *Buxey* not to pay any salary to his attornies after the day he went on [board] the *Swallow*. This order respecting Mr. Barwell [was] a very proper one and ought to have been repeated in the case of Mr. Francis.

7. Before we quit this subject we cannot avoid remarking on the impropriety of suffering Mr. Francis to draw for his salary 3 months in advance. Such a practice is extremely irregular, and must on no account be repeated in future.

8. We direct that Mr. Richard Becher junr., a writer in your establishment, succeed to the rank held by his younger brother Mr. John Becher who, in exchange, is to have the rank held by his brother Richard Becher junr. on the list of covenanted servants at your Presidency.

9. We have received a letter, with three papers enclosed, from the Right Honourable Sir George Yonge Baronet, Secretary at War, relative to the 36th and 52nd Regiments of Foot embarked for the East Indies, copies of which we send you enclosed, and refer you to the [Act] of Parliament, and the orders we have already given on that subject in our letters to you of the 25th and 29th of January last for your guidance therein.

10. We have appointed Messrs. Alexr. Wright, Charles Andrew Bruce and Thomas Parr writers for your Presidency in further part of the numbers to be sent thither this season; their rank will be advised hereafter.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/ Nath. Smith/  
Heny. Savage/John Harrison/ Jac.  
Wilkinson/ George Tatem/ Ben.  
Booth/Joseph Sparkes/W. Bensley/  
George Cuming/John Hunter/Jacob  
Bosanquet / F. Baring / L. Darell /  
R. Hall.

London,

the 27th March 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

Received per *Crocodile*.

No. 1.

## LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1783

*Election of Directors.*

Gentlemen,

[1] The dispatches for this season having been closed, and it being understood that His Majesty's ship *Crocodile* is under sailing orders for the East Indies, I take the present occasion to communicate to you the arrival of the *Rodney* brig at Limerick, the 31st of last month.

[2] The annual election of six Directors for the year ensuing having been made on the 9th instant, in the room of the six gentlemen, who went out by rotation, the following were chosen Directors accordingly: Sir William James Baronet, John Michie Esqr., Thomas Parry Esqr., Samuel Smith junr. Esqr., Laurence Sullivan Esqr., William Mills Esqr.

[3] And you are further informed, for your notice, that Sir Henry Fletcher Baronet has been appointed Chairman, and Nathaniel Smith Esqr., Deputy Chairman of the Court of Directors, for the year ensuing.

I am, very respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble  
servant,

East India House,  
London the 11th April 1783.

P. Michell,  
Secretary.

The Honourable the Governor General and Council  
at Fort William in Bengal.

Received 22nd September 1783, per *Crocodile*.

No. 4.

## LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1783

*Leave regulations—reports of Parliamentary Committee on affairs of Bengal—payment on account of Lord Clive's jagir to cease—reduction in number of King's regiments to lessen military expenses.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since writing our letter of the 27th of March last, by the

*Crocodile* frigate, we have received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letters dated 9th May, 15th July, 7th December 1782, and 3rd February 1783.

Secret Letters dated 9th and 26th May, 15th July, 10th November, 4th December 1782, and 30th January 1783.

Revenue Letters dated 27th November with a postscript dated 30th November 1782, and 6th February 1783.

Law Letters dated 27th November 1782, and 6th February 1783.

Letters from the Governor General to the Secret Committee dated 22nd May and 16th December 1782.

Letters from Mr. Secretary Auriol dated 13th May, 11th, 13th and 16th December 1782.

Letters from Mr. Secretary Webber dated 9th May, and 11th December 1782.

Letter from Mr. Secretary Bruere dated 9th February 1783.

Letters from the Board of Trade dated 8th May, 11th, 19th and 27th June, four of the 28th November, and one of the 5th and 9th December 1782, and 7th January 1783.

2. You will receive in the packet a printed narrative of the loss of the ship *Grosvenor* prepared by Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, by our order, from the accounts given of that melancholy event by some of the survivors who have arrived in England; and likewise of another narrative of some of the seamen arrived in Denmark, received from His Majesty's Consul at Elsinour.

3. The names of the ships entertained in the Company's service this season are as follow, viz.,

Ships			Commanders			Burthen	
New ship	...	...	Captain Nathaniel Dance	...	...	755	Tons
New ship	...	...	Burnet Abercrombie	...	...	755	"
New ship	...	...	William Hardcastle	...	...	755	"
New ship	...	...	George Blachford	...	...	755	"
<i>Egmont</i>	...	...	Thomas Larkins	...	...	755	"
<i>Berrington</i>	...	...	John Johnston	...	...	755	"
<i>Earl of Mansfield</i>	...	...	William Fraser	...	...	758	"
<i>Royal Charlotte</i>	...	...	Josiah Pryce	...	...	758	"
<i>Contractor</i>	...	...	James Baldwin	...	...	758	"
<i>Ponsborne</i>	...	...	William Hammett	...	...	758	"
<i>Valentine</i>	...	...	John Lewis	...	...	755	"
<i>Royal Admiral</i>	...	...	Joseph Huddart	...	...	903	"
<i>Neptune</i>	...	...	Robert Scott	...	...	758	"

4. All the above ships are taken up at £33 per ton freight for India and China; £2-10 per ton impress; 10*d.* per ton per day demorage; £13 per head for passage of military; and in all other respects on the same conditions as the ships of last year, as will appear by reference to their respective charter parties.

5. In your provision of cargoes for any of our returning ships, you are to have in view the lading as much surplus tonnage as possible on board of them; as we are convinced, from their being all of a burthen of above 700 tons, they have abundant capacity to bring a considerable quantity.

6. We have fitted the Company's ship *Swallow*, Captain Richard Bandy, burthen 345 tons, for a voyage to India; and on her arrival she is to be added to our marine force on the Bombay establishment. The *Swallow* being an advice vessel, we have not laden any goods on her but have put on board one thousand ounces of foreign silver for the ship's use, in case she should be obliged to put into any foreign ports for refreshments or repairs during the voyage, for which sum the commander is to account on the ship's arrival in India.

7. We have thought proper to appoint Sir Henry Fletcher Baronet, our Chairman, and Nathaniel Smith Esqr., our Deputy Chairman, a Secret Committee with the powers mentioned in the 4th paragraph of our General Letter of the 30th April, and the 6th paragraph of our General Letter of the 18th June 1782.

8. We have likewise appointed our Chairman and Deputy Chairman, together with Benjamin Booth, Charles Boddam, William Devaynes Esqrs., Sir William James Baronet, John Michie, John Roberts and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs., to be the Committee of Secrecy for giving the necessary directions respecting the safety of the Company's shipping. The orders therefore of any three of the said Committee must be obeyed with the greatest punctuality.

9. The Right Honorable the Secretary at War having transmitted us a compleat list of the officers of His Majesty's forces serving in India, who have superior local rank there, we enclose a copy thereof for your information.

10. It being of very great importance to the Company that the corps of artillery at their respective Presidencies in India should be recruited with men fit for that particular service, we have taken such measures as appeared to us proper for procuring a number of the disbanded non-commissioned officers and private men of the Royal Artillery, not exceeding 600, for the Company's artillery in India, and His Majesty has been graciously pleased to permit such men, as may be entertained for this service, to remain in their respective corps until the ships shall be ready for their reception. A list of those embarked on board the *Swallow* is sent in the packet.

11. We advised you in our letter dated the 12th May 1780 that we had permitted Mr. Stephen Matthews to proceed to the East Indies to practice as a surgeon, and to succeed as an assistant surgeon, at such place where his service was most wanted, after those who had been previously advised as such had been provided for; and Mr. Matthews having since



represented to us that he was abroad at the time of his appointment, and unacquainted therewith until he lately arrived in England, we have granted him leave to proceed to Bengal on the Company's ship *Swallow*, at his own expence, with the rank assigned him in our beforementioned letter.

12. And as Mr. Charles Herredes, the surgeon of the *Swallow*, is a native of Bengal and not supposed to be so experienced as Mr. Matthews in the nature of disorders to which Europeans are subject, we have put the party of artillery embarked on that ship under his care; and it is our order that he be paid the usual allowance of ten shillings per head, for each man landed in India.

13. Having come to an unanimous resolution respecting our civil and military servants abroad, who may return to Europe for the recovery of health, or for the purpose of settling their private affairs, we strictly enjoin your obedience to, and immediate publication of the said resolution, which is as follows, viz.,

Resolved unanimously that all servants of the Company, civil or military, employed in any of the settlements in India or China who shall, after the publication of this resolution, have leave to return to England shall lose all such promotion or rank as they would have become entitled to, had they remained in India or in China, and shall, if permitted by the Court of Directors to return thither, have the same rank only as they held at their departure from thence, except in cases of ill health certified by the Governor (and in China by the Chief Supracargo) and upon the oaths of a committee of the three principal surgeons (if so many at the settlement) from whence they shall come, under the following form ; and in that case their leave of absence to be for one year only in Europe, except by express leave from the Court of Directors for a second year, taken by the ballot, on proof of their health not being established.

14. The certificate to be in the handwriting of the principal surgeon, and attested upon oath by him and the two next in rank, before a magistrate, viz.,

"We A, B and C, surgeons of———, do hereby declare, on oath, that we are of opinion it is absolutely necessary that Mr. D should leave this country, and go to Europe for the recovery of his health, occasioned by wounds, bilious or any other disorder."

15. We have appointed the following persons writers for your Presidency in further part of the number agreed to be sent thither last season, viz., Messrs. John Fombelle, Francis Smyth, Joseph Bourdieu, William Towers Smith, Francis Hawkins. Mr. Fombelle proceeded to his station on the *Crocodile* frigate.

16. We have appointed Mr. Jeremy Sneyd a writer for your Presidency, in addition to the number agreed to be sent thither last season.

17. We have permitted Mr. John Wilton to return to his rank in our civil service at your Presidency; he proceeds on the *Eurydice* frigate.

18. We have appointed Messrs. Colin Shakespear and Frederic Rodolph Muller (the former abroad) cadets on your establishment. Their rank will appear by the general list.

19. Captain John Pierce Morton and Quarter Master Orr, of the 1st Battalion of His Majesty's 73rd Regiment of Foot, now serving in India, have our permission to embark on the *Swallow* free of charge to the Company.

20. In future when you grant certificates to the commanders and officers of our ships on their indulgence we positively direct that you make out one set for a moiety of the sum allowed to each person, payable at 90 days', and another set for the remaining moiety, payable at 365 days' sight.

21. And in granting certificates when it may appear that the money has been paid into the Company's treasury by one person for account of, or on the indulgence of, another person we further direct that the name of the person, to whose order the certificate is to be made payable in England, be expressed; and likewise, that you recommend it to those to whom certificates shall be granted to transmit them properly endorsed, or accompanied with powers of attorney, if none should have been already given; frequent difficulties and delays of payment have ensued in consequence of such omissions.

22. Captain Jonathan Court has presented to us a certificate, drawn by you, for rupees 24,909-1-6, on account of his privilege, unclaimed by him on his voyage in the ship *Prince of Wales* in the year 1776, he having been obliged to return to England leaving many things unsold, which were afterwards disposed of by his attornies. We have accepted the said certificate, as it is drawn and authenticated in the usual form; but having, in the 27th paragraph of our letter dated the 15th of December 1775 and the 6th paragraph of our letter dated the 5th of February 1777, given you our orders relative to the granting certificates to the commanders and officers of the Company's freighted ships we enjoin you strictly to adhere thereto, and on no account, whatever, to grant certificates in future to the commander or officers of any ship after the voyage has been completed.

23. We send, in the packet by the *Swallow*, a complete set of the Acts of Parliament passed in the last session, and direct that you pay every attention to such parts of those Acts which respect the management of our affairs in India as may require your obedience.

24. The committee appointed by the Honorable House of Commons to take into consideration the state of the administration of justice

in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, also how the British possessions in the East Indies may be held and governed with the greatest security and advantage to Britain, and by what means the happiness of the native inhabitants may be best promoted, having made several reports to that House, we send you a complete set of those reports for your information.

25. By our letter of the 20th of November 1767, paragraphs 53 and 54, and the deed thereby referred to, dated the 4th of November 1767, made between the Company and the late Lord Clive you will see that his right to the jaghire ceases on the 5th of May 1784; you are therefore not to continue the payment thereof beyond that period.

26. In consequence of the enormous amount of your military expences, and the absolute necessity of making every reduction therein, and observing the deficiency of the several regiments now serving in India, we have made application to His Majesty's ministers that such of the King's regiments as shall consist of the fewest numbers may be draughted into other regiments in order to complete them, and that the officers of such reduced regiments may be directed to return to Europe, by which means the Company will be eased of a very considerable expence on account of the said officers.

27. We have no doubt that the necessary orders will be accordingly issued; and we understand that four of the regiments will be incorporated into the other six. We therefore direct that you make the necessary application to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces in India for the accomplishment of the measure, and that the officers of the reduced regiments be afforded every necessary accommodation in their passage to Europe on board the first ships that may be dispatched from India.

28. We have permitted Lieutenant Colonel Dalrymple, of the 1st Battalion of His Majesty's 73rd Regiment of Foot now serving in India, to embark on the *Swallow* at his own expence.

29. Upon examination of Captain Philip Sharp's account of disbursements for the ship *Prime* (copy of which is enclosed for your information) it appeared that he had omitted to give the Company credit for £50 advanced him by Mr. George Huish, the Company's Agent at Portsmouth, the 3rd of March last; also that he had omitted to give the Company credit for £75 for the passage of five writers, at the rate of £15 each, and that he had charged £21 for his expences while on shore at Portsmouth which cannot be allowed; and as we find that, agreeably to Captain Sharp's own account, there is (exclusive of the abovementioned sums) a balance of £18-6-6 due from him to the Company we have ordered those several sums, amounting to £143-6-6, to be carried to his debit, and direct that you demand the same of Captain Sharp if he should be at your Presidency on the receipt of this letter.

30. The lascars and black seamen now on board the *Swallow*, who came from Bengal on that ship, have been advanced three months' wages by way of impress. The remainder of wages due to those persons from the 13th April 1783, after deducting the expences the Company have been put to for their maintenance in England, must be paid on their arrival in India.

31. Mr. Herredes, who returns as surgeon of that ship, at the wages of Rs. 100 per month, has been paid from the said 13th April to the 8th instant including two months for impress.

32. We have put on board the *Swallow* Salvadore and Joachim, two black seamen, who came to England on the *Fox* brig, and answer the description of the slaves who ran from their masters at Macao and for whom the supracargos paid their full value; and we direct that, on their arrival in India, they be forwarded to Canton in order to their being returned to their masters, that the supracargos may be reimbursed the sums they have paid on their account. Their wages have been paid to the 8th instant, and they are to receive the remainder that may be due to them on their discharge from the ship in India.

33. An account of the wages and impress, paid to the above persons, will be transmitted in the packet.

34. You will receive in the packets by the *Eurydice* and *Swallow*, complete lists of the cadets appointed for the infantry and artillery corps in Bengal, in the season 1782, with their order of rank.

35. Since writing the 26th and 27th paragraphs we have received a letter from the Right Honorable Lord North, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, acquainting us, that His Majesty has been pleased to consent that such of the non-commissioned officers and men of the four additional companies, and of the four youngest regiments serving in India, intended to be brought to Europe, as are willing to enter, as voluntary, into the other regiments that are to remain in India shall be permitted so to do, but that their stay or their return shall entirely depend upon themselves; and that the officers belonging to the said regiments shall forthwith be brought home in order that they may be reduced. His Lordship likewise informs us that the necessary instructions to the officer commanding the King's forces in India, for fulfilling His Majesty's gracious intentions with regard to those regiments, shall immediately be prepared and transmitted to us, that they may be forwarded by the *Eurydice* frigate now under dispatch for India. Copies of Lord North's letter, and of the instructions mentioned therein, will be enclosed in the packet.

36. We have, since the receipt of the above letter from Lord North, made a further application to His Lordship for His Majesty's permission



for the said men to have their option of entering into the Company's service, which we are in great hopes will be complied with.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher / Nathl. Smith /  
Lau. Sullivan / Thos. Cheap / W.  
Devaynes / Thos. Parry / George  
Tatem / Samuel Smith junior / Jno.  
Townson / Joseph Sparkes / John  
Smith / Jacob Bosanquet / John  
Roberts / Jacob Wilkinson / Stephen  
Lushington / Chas. Boddam.

London,  
the 10th September 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal, per *Swallow* packet.

No. 1. Via Fort St. George.

Received 12th March. Orders issued 22nd March.

#### ENCLOSURE 1

(*Vide paragraph 2*)

Wm. Habberley junr., son of William Habberley of Aberdeen, John Hynes, son of Daniel Hynes at Limerick, Francisco Dallos of Genoa and Francesco Bianco of Venice, all seamen on board the *Grosvenor*, Captain John Coxon, on a voyage from Bengal and Trincomalee for England, shipwrecked in said vessel, the 4th August [.....], at Nambona, on the African coast, in the latitude of  $27^{\circ} 28'$ . The crew and passengers, making up 169 in all, of which 16 were drowned and 153 got safe on shore, of which the captain, Mr. Newman, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Hosier and their child, and Mr. Logie, chief mate, and his wife from Bengal, Colonel James and his lady, and Captain Adair of the Company's troops from Madras, Captain Talbot, late of the *Worcester* man of war, and six English white children, and French Colonel L'Espigny and their ensign Monsr. Oliver and their servant, a Frenchman, and black women. And among those lost were Messrs. Wm. Welborn and John Beechenoe, midshipmen, Simon Griffiths, boatswain's mate, John Woodward quarter master, Thomas Gentles, joiner; Valentine Byers, baker, Christopher [.....] (a German) and the rest all seamen. And remained in the open air on the place of shipwreck for three days, when finding the natives so inhospitable that they would not afford us any relief or assistance, and the ship being gone quite to pieces that we could expect none from thence, the captain and all the sufferers resolved on travelling towards the Cape of Good Hope, but were constantly pursued by the Caffres and violently attacked by them, till after seven days, the small stock of provisions we had picked up from the wreck being expended, about 45 of us were forced to make the best of our way from the rest, till the 10th November following, when John Hyndes and Fra. Dallos, John Warrington, boatswain's mate, Barnard Lary, Jeremiah Evans and Robert Price, the captain's boy, arrived at Swart-Coops river among the Dutch farmers,



where they met a very friendly reception. And on the 14th January following, Wm. Habberley and Francesco Bianco and Thomas Lewis arrived at the same place, being about 300 English miles from the Cape. And Jeremiah Evans went back to Cromme river, by the Governor's leave, to settle as farmer there. All the rest, except ourselves, have been landed in England by Danish East Indiamen which are returned from the Cape. And two black women servants and seven lascars, who had escaped alive, were detained at Zevollendam by the Governor's orders from the Cape, which are all the sufferers we could learn having escaped. Francisco Dallas [.....] did not return from Swart-Coop, but from Zevollendam the 14th December ultimo, not having been strong enough to undertake the journey sooner. But in the meanwhile several parties of the Dutch, with horses and waggons, had been sent off towards assistance to the wreck, by order of the Governor at the Cape, who, we understood, encountered so many difficultys that they could not penetrate farther than within three days' journey of the shipwreck, and only succeeded in finding twelve of the aforementioned people among the Caffres, whom they all conducted to the Cape, and treated with great humanity. From the wreck to Swart-Coop, above 50 large and small rivers, and all salt, of which capital ones—1st Ambasi [Zambezi], 2nd Morte river, 3rd Keisik Kamak, 4th Fish river, 5th Boots Man's river, 6th Sontag's river; and only saw detached huts in their travelling which was always along the beach, and their food herbs, dead whales, oisters and muscles and a few fresh fish, and dug holes in the sand for fresh water. The black women and the lascars, having been among the latest partys, said that they could not tell exactly what became of them, but that they had seen many corps [corpses] daily, and some of the captain's cloaths on the Caffres, by which they apprehended he had been killed, or died of hunger, which they judged to have been the fate of all the rest. Five or six days after passing Keisik Kamak river, when Mr. Habberley and Messrs. Williams and Taylor were together, several black men, women and children came down upon them and threw Mr. Williams into the river and killed him with stones, seemingly exasperated at not finding any thing to plunder them of; and two days after Mr. Taylor died of his wounds and fatigues. All which aforementioned, to the best of our remembrance, we aver to be truth, as true as God shall help us and his holy Word, and in witness whereof have hereunto set our hands at Elsingoer [Elsineur] this 19th August 1783.

Willm. Habberley/John Hynes/Francesco  
da Losco/Francesco Bianco (his mark).

These are to certify, to whom it may concern, that the above depositions were made before me, in the usual manner given under my hand and seal of office at Elsingoer [Elsineur], date as above etc.,

N. Fenwick,

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General  
in Denmark.

Copy

Narrative of the loss of the Company's ship *Grosvenor* received from Mr. Fenwick, Consul at Elsineur.

No. 8.

ENCLOSURE 2

(Vide paragraph 29)

The Honourable United East India Company in account with Philip Sharp

To 6 quarter masters impressed at 45/- p.m.	27	0	0
2 quarter masters impressed at 40/-	8	0	0
1 carpenter's mate and caulker £4	8	0	0
1 carpenter ... £5	10	0	0
1 boatswain's mate ... 50/-	5	0	0
1 fourth mate ... 50/-	5	0	0
1 boatswain ... £4	8	0	0
1 butcher ... 45/-	4	10	0
1 captain's cook ... 55/-	5	10	0
1 midshipman ... 45/-	4	10	0
33 able seamen ... 35/-	115	10	0
28 ordinary seamen ... 30/-	84	0	0
1 ordinary seaman ... 25/-	2	10	0
Cash paid crimpage at Portsmouth ...	8	10	0
paid boat hire carrying seamen off ...	3	10	0
paid express to London ...	1	3	0
paid bounty to 28 seamen at 21/-	29	8	0
My expences while at Portsmouth on account of the ship ...	21	0	0
Impressed John Mitchell ordinary ...	3	0	0
Balance due to the Company ...	18	0	0
	<u>£372</u>		

East India House,  
 London the ..... September 1783.  
 Copy: Captain Philip Sharp's account of disbursements  
 for the Company's ship *Prime*. No. 14.

By cash received from Jas. Nichols discharged	...	5	5	0
Mar. 1 By received George Huish	...	100	0	0
9 By do.	...	100	0	0
10 By do.	...	52	10	0
By do.	...	105	0	0
Cash recovered of J.. Gould run	...	3	9	6
.....received C. Biggs—discharged	...	2	2	0
.....received Wm. Bayley, butcher, who went on shore and did not return	...	4	10	0
		<u>£372 16 6</u>		

On board St. Helens 16th March 1783.

Errors excepted P. Sharp.

N.B. The several sums advanced by Mr. Huish to Captain Sharp to disburse and to account were as follows,  
 viz.,  
 1783 March 1st ... £100 0 0  
 3rd ... 50 0 0  
 9th ... 100 0 0  
 10th ... 52 10 0  
 — ... 105 0 0  
£407 10 0

Exclusive of the above Mr. Huish paid Captain Sharp, 3rd March 1783, the Company's allowance for his table outward bound

50 0 0  
£457 10 0

exceeds the cost of silk imported from Italy. And as we deem it highly expedient to ascertain the causes which have occasioned such comparative difference of price in an article which constitutes so considerable a part of our imports from Bengal, we direct that the subject be forthwith investigated with the greatest accuracy and precision and that you report to us the result of such investigation with all possible expedition. And in such report we direct that you state particularly the prices originally paid to the natives for the cocoons and who are the first purchasers thereof. And we further direct that an exact and circumstantial account of all charges attending the winding of the silk be prepared and transmitted to us with your report beforementioned.

13. We have received a letter from John Udney Esqr., His Majesty's Consul at Leghorn, advising that Mr. D. Talamas had delivered to him a packet from you directed to Robert Gregory Esqr., containing dispatches for the Company which he had forwarded to that gentleman; but as this is a deviation from the customary channel of communication we hereby forbid like being done in future and direct that all our packets and advices be addressed either to the Court of Directors or the Secret Committee and under cover to our Secretary.

14. By the ship *Surprize*, which arrived at Limerick the 12th instant, we received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letters dated the 5th and 16th April 1783.

Separate Letter dated the 5th April 1783.

Secret Letters dated the 5th and 7th April 1783.

Revenue Letter dated the 4th April 1783.

Law Letter dated the 4th April 1783.

Letter from the Governor General 20th March.

Letters from the Board of Trade 1st and 4th April.

15. We have permitted Mr. George Watson, to proceed to your Presidency, to practise as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith / Lau. Sullivan /  
Joseph Sparkes / Jno. Michie / George  
Tatem / Thos. Parry / John Smith /  
Chas. Boddam / Samuel Smith junr. /  
W. Devaynes / Thos. Cheap / John  
Roberts / W. Bensley / Jacob Bosan-  
quet / R. Hall / Jno. Townson.

London,  
the 24th September 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal per *Swallow* packet.

Via Fort St. George. No. 24.

Received 12th March.

Read 12th March.

Orders issued 22nd March.

## LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1783

*Treaty with France—mutual restoration of conquered territories—the French permitted to dig ditch round Chandernagore for drainage—preliminary articles of peace with Holland.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. We wrote to you on the 6th of March last by the *Crocodile* frigate and overland by Major Geils. The orders and instructions in that letter, relative to the preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and France, were in general so full and explicit that we have only to enclose you a copy thereof and to draw your particular attention thereto.

2. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that on the 3rd instant the definitive treaties with France and Spain were signed at Versailles by the Duke of Manchester, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the respective plenipotentiaries of the said Courts. And we now enclose you copies thereof, so far as relates to the East Indies, for your information and guidance.

3. You will observe by the 19th article of the definitive treaty with France, "that all the countries and territories which shall have been, or may be, conquered in any part of the world whatsoever, by the arms of His Britannic Majesty, as well as by those of His Most Christian Majesty, which are not comprehended in the present treaty, neither under the title of cessions or under the title of restitutions, shall be restored without difficulty, and without exacting a compensation."

4. This article is intended to provide for the restitution of conquests which may have been made by either party during the present war, and not expressly ceded in the other articles.

5. As therefore the capture of Trincomalay, by the French, was not known in Europe at the time of signing the preliminary articles, and as it comes precisely under the description in the beforementioned article, it must therefore be surrendered to you; and you must be cautious not to yield possession to France of any of the places stipulated by the treaty until matters shall be so arranged as that the restoration of Trincomalay may take place at the same time you make the cessions to France. And we cannot too strongly recommend your attention to this injunction.

6. You will observe the difference between the 16th article of the preliminaries and the 16th article of the definitive treaty. In the latter the difficulty which occurred as to what might be deemed ancient possessions of allies is removed by an express adoption of the period of 1776 as an explanatory of the indefinite term ancient, and all other ambiguities are removed by a reference to the orders already sent to India.



7. Though the instructions from the French Court to their commanders in India are not so explicit as those we sent, yet as our orders were communicated to the ministers of France and forwarded with their concurrence we consider this article in the definitive treaty as adopting those orders. You will therefore strictly attend to our former instructions of the 6th of March last, and consider these as conveying the intention of both the contracting parties.

8. We must call your attention to what we have already written, in consequence of the stipulation in the 13th article of the preliminaries, that the French shall have liberty to surround Chandernagore with a ditch for draining the waters. This matter has been now explained in a declaration signed by the Duke of Manchester and a counter declaration signed by the Comte de Vergennes, a copy of which is enclosed. We therefore hope that no future disputes will arise upon this subject between the two nations.

9. A provision is made by the 21st article of the treaty, for reimbursing the sums which shall have been advanced for the subsistence and maintenance of the prisoners of either nation. To enable us therefore to make our demands on the Court of France for the maintenance of prisoners during the late war, in as clear and unquestionable a manner as possible, we direct that you transmit to us, by an early conveyance, the necessary receipts and attested accounts and other authentic titles relative to this head. And we wish it may be done in so complete and satisfactory a manner as that there may be no occasion for us to apply to you for explanations or elucidations. The revival of a demand which has been erroneously stated serves only to weaken the justice of it, and is too apt to be considered as making a dormant claim. The difficulty of procuring an adjustment of such accounts is in general insurmountable. For these reasons we enjoin you to be extremely careful in procuring the accounts and vouchers we have here ordered to be transmitted to us.

10. You will observe by the 20th article that the mutual restorations of places taken and cessions to be made are to take place in six months after the ratification of the definitive treaty, or sooner if it can be done, which ratification was mutually exchanged at Versailles on the 19th instant.

11. You are now to consider the peace with France as complete and final and must proceed to carry the same into execution according to the terms thereof, and agreeably to the orders and instructions contained in this and our beforementioned letter of the 6th March last.

12. We have the further satisfaction to acquaint you that the preliminary articles between His Majesty and the States General were signed at Paris on the 2nd instant, of which we enclose you a copy so far as they relate to the East Indies.

13. By the 4th article you will observe that Negapatam and its dependencies are to be ceded to the English.



14. The 5th article of the preliminaries with Holland stipulates for the restoration of Trincomalay and every other place taken from the Dutch in the course of the present war.

15. By the 6th article the States General engage not to obstruct the navigation of British subjects in the Eastern seas.

16. The 9th article, by which it is agreed that the King of Great Britain shall cause Trincomalay to be evacuated, shews the absolute necessity of our pointed directions on this head in a preceding paragraph.

17. But as by the 9th article of the preliminaries with the Dutch the mutual restitutions to be made on both sides in the East Indies are not to take place until six months after the ratification of the definitive treaty, we shall reserve such further orders as we may see occasion to give upon this subject until we shall advise you of the conclusion of the treaty, which we hope to be able to do in a very short time.

18. We have made this letter circular but as our Presidency of Fort Marlborough were not acquainted with the directions in our letter of the 6th March last, which have a reference to the present instructions, we have enclosed them a copy thereof for their information.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Henry Fletcher/Nathl. Smith/Lau.  
Sullivan/John Roberts/Thos. Cheap/  
W. Devaynes/Thos. Parry/Samuel  
Smith junior/Jno. Michie/Jn. Town-  
son/John Smith/Jacob Bosanquet/  
Jac. Wilkinson/Step. Lushington/  
Chas. Boddam.

London,  
the 24th September 1783.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 1.

Received from the *Swallow* packet 12th March 1784.  
Read in Council 18th March 1784.

## LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1783

*Ratification of preliminary articles of peace with Holland.*

Gentlemen,

The Court of Directors have received a letter from the Right Hon'ble Lord North, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, dated

the 10th of October, acquainting them that the preliminary articles of peace between His Majesty and the States General of the United Provinces having been signed at Paris on the 2nd day of September, the ratifications of which were exchanged by the plenipotentiaries of His Majesty and those of the said States on the 29th of the same month, and enclosing a printed copy of the said preliminary articles, also duplicates of His Majesty's orders to the commanders of the forces by sea and land in the East Indies, directing them to restore any places which may be in their possession agreeably to the terms of the said preliminaries, which orders are transmitted in the ship *Ponsborne's* packet to Fort St. George. Copies whereof and of Lord North's letter with the enclosures are sent for your observance.

I am very respectfully,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

East India House London,  
the 20th November 1783.

Thos. Morton,  
Secretary.

The Honourable the Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Letter from the Secretary.

No. 25.

#### ENCLOSURE I

Whitehall, 10th October 1783.

Gentlemen,

The preliminary articles of peace between His Majesty and the States General of the United Provinces having been signed at Paris on the 2nd day of September, the ratifications of which were exchanged by the plenipotentiaries of His Majesty and those of the said States on the 29th of the same month, His Majesty has commanded me to transmit to you the inclosed printed copy of the said preliminary articles, in order that you may dispatch the necessary instructions to your officers in the East Indies in conformity to the stipulations therein contained; and I further transmit to you herewith duplicates of His Majesty's orders to the commanders of his forces by sea and land in those parts, directing them to restore any places which may be in their possession agreeably to the terms of the said preliminary articles; which orders you will be pleased to forward to the

East Indies by the first ship that may proceed thither, and you will, at the same time, instruct your servants to co-operate with the King's officers in carrying into execution the several stipulations therein contained.

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient, humble servant,  
North.

Directors of the East India Company.

Copy:

Letter from the Right Honourable Lord North to the Court of Directors.

No. 26.

*ENCLOSURE 2*

George R.

Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well.

Whereas preliminary articles of peace was [were] signed at Paris on the second day of September last by our plenipotentiary and those of the States General of the United Provinces, the ratifications of which were exchanged on the 29th of the same month. And whereas it is stipulated by the fifth article of the said preliminary articles "that the King of Great Britain shall restore to the said States General of the United Provinces, Trinquimale, as also all the other towns, forts, harbours and settlements, which, in the course of the present war, have been conquered in any part of the world whatsoever by the arms of His Britannick Majesty or by those of the English East India Company, and of which he might be in possession, the whole in the condition in which they shall be found". And it being further stipulated by the ninth article of the said preliminary articles, "that the King of Great Britain shall cause Trinquimale to be evacuated as well as all the towns, forts and territories which have been taken by his arms and of which he may be in possession excepting what is ceded to His Britannick Majesty by the said articles, at the same periods as the restitutions and evacuations shall be made between Great Britain and France, and that the States General shall restore at the same period the towns and territories which their arms may have taken from the English in the East Indies". Our will and pleasure therefore is that you do, pursuant to the stipulations above recited, deliver or cause to be delivered to such commissary or commissaries as shall be named and authorized on the part of the said States General of the United Provinces to receive the same Trinquimale and such other towns, forts, harbours and settlements in the East Indies which are by the said preliminary articles to be restored to the said States. And for so doing this shall be your warrant given at our Court at St. James's the tenth day of October 1783, in the twenty third year of our reign.

By His Majesty's command.  
North.

To our trusty and well beloved Sir Edward Hughes, Knight of the Bath, and Sir Hyde Parker Baronet, Vice Admirals of the Blue, or in their absence to the Officer Commanding in Chief any part of our fleet in the East Indies, or to the Commanding Officer in any islands or places which may have been taken possession of by our arms.

N.B. The same sent verbatim to Sir Eyre Coote K. B., etc., etc., etc.

Order for restitution in the East Indies

Copy of His Majesty's orders to the Commanding Officers by sea and land for the restitution of places in India.

No. 28.

26

LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER 1783

*Bengal to supply gunpowder to Madras and Fort Marlborough—surgical instruments to be sent for repairs to England—preservative against insects sent by way of trial.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letters to you were dated the 10th and 24th September, and were forwarded by the Company's ship *Swallow*, which sailed from Falmouth the 7th ultimo. Transcripts were also sent by His Majesty's ship *Eurydice*.

2. We have thought proper to continue for this season the prohibition of sending any articles either to our civil and military servants in India.

3. As our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Fort Marlborough may be amply supplied with gunpowder of a very good quality from Bengal we have ordered our Presidents and Council to indent to you for the quantity they want, and direct that you comply therewith.

4. The sealing wax made in Bengal being superior to that made in Europe we have declined complying with your indent for that article.

5. We deem it unnecessary to send masts or spars to any of our Presidencies as the President and Council of Fort Marlborough, in their letter dated the 19th March 1783, advised us that masts of any size may be procured [at] the island of Sumatra. You are therefore to indent to that Presidency for such as your occasions require.

6. As the consumption of medicines during peace must be considerably less than in time of war we have thought it necessary, after leaving out those articles in your indent which we deemed improper to comply with, to direct that about two thirds of the remainder be sent, and we have reduced the principal instruments and utensils in the same proportion.

7. Having determined not to send pocket instruments to either of our Presidencies you will give directions to your surgeons not to indent for any in future.

8. By our letter of the 7th April 1773, you will observe that on account of the great expense of instruments we ordered the old and especially the cutting instruments to be returned for repair, to which order we enjoin strict obedience, and direct that you require the surgeons particularly to notice at the foot of their future indents for instruments such as are sent for that purpose, but should not any be returned the reason must be assigned in the indent.

9. At the request of Mr. Henry Phillips, the inventor of a powder for the preservation of stores from insects, we have purchased one hundredweight and send it to your Presidency on the ship *Hillsborough* by way of trial. We direct that it be used agreeably to the printed instructions accompanying the same and its utility reported to us by the first opportunity. The price of the powder is £5-5 per hundredweight.

10. Captain Trotter of the 73rd Regiment, also Lieutenant Mason and Ensigns Carden and Fergusson of the 36th Regiment, have our leave to proceed to India; the three latter are provided with a passage at the Company's expence on the ship *Ponsborne*.

11. We have permitted Major Thomas Adderley to return to his duty at your Presidency without prejudice to his rank.

12. We have appointed Mr. Thomas Anburey a practitioner engineer for your Presidency with the rank of youngest ensign on his arrival.

13. We have appointed the following persons cadets for the corps of artillery at your Presidency, on the list of last year, in the room and with the rank of others undermentioned who have declined proceeding, viz.,

James Dodington Sherwood in the room of Benjamin Johnson.  
Benjamin Ralph in the room of George Stracey Smyth.  
William Murray in the room of John Thompson.

14. The following gentlemen are appointed our Council of Supercargo at Canton for managing the Company's affairs in China this season, viz., Messrs. Willm. Henry Pigou, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Browne, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce, Charles Edward Pigou, Henry



Lane, David Lance, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Kuyck Van Mierop, William Fitzhugh, Richard Hall, Samuel Peach, Hugh Parkin.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Nath. Smith/W. Devaynes/J. Smith/  
Lionel Darell/Jn. Townson/ Thos.  
Cheap/Thos. Parry/John Roberts/  
Chas. Boddam/Samuel Smith junior/  
Step. Lushington/W. Bensley/George  
Tatem/John Hunter.

London,  
23rd December 1783.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 1.

Received the 4th July per *Berrington*.  
Read in Council on the 5th July.

27

## LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1784

*Maps and plans for Bengal—Hasting's views regarding Court's resolutions about Chait Singh resented—Governor General and Sir Eyre Coote commended for their exertions against Haidar and the French—treaty with the Marathas not entirely satisfactory—reductions in expenditure urged—Bombay's bankruptcy—Arcot Nawab to effect economy—House of Lords reject bill to revise Company's constitution—loss of the Warren.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you under date the 23rd ultimo by the ship *Valentine*, and now transmit a duplicate of our said letter by the *Surprise* packet.

2. Having thought proper to call upon Captain Asquith to account for his long stay in the river Shannon, and for his not using that expedition in preparing his vessel to return to Bengal which we expected, our Committee of Shipping have taken the same into consideration. Copies of their reports, together with the correspondence which has passed between our Secretary and Captain Asquith on that subject and other points relative to the said vessel, are transmitted in order that you may settle the accounts in such manner as may appear to you equitable and proper.

3. The six brass guns which were put on board the *Valentine* at Bengal, for her defence homeward bound, are now mounted on the quarter deck of that ship and invoiced to be returned to your Presidency.





Raja Chait Singh

4. We send on board the ships *Hillsborough*, *Earl Mansfield* and *Berrington* 150 books, each containing a collection of maps and plans for the use of our servants in Bengal, and direct that they be charged at the prices mentioned in our letter of the 2nd February 1781.

5. As our Presidency of Fort Marlborough will stand in great need of supplies it is our positive injunction that you comply with their indents in the fullest manner to the utmost of your power.

6. Our late Chairman Sir Henry Fletcher Baronet having disqualified himself we have chosen Nathaniel Smith Esqr. our Chairman and William Devaynes Esqr. our Deputy Chairman for the remainder of the present year.

7. We must not suffer the Governor General's letter relative to our resolutions about Cheyte Sing to be passed over in silence, wearing as it does the appearance of animadversions on the conduct of his superiors, not to be justified in his situation.

8. The Court of Directors have not only an undoubted right, but their duty calls upon them to condemn any measure that shall appear of a dangerous tendency. The conduct towards Cheyte Singh was in their eye liable to destroy that confidence so necessary to be preserved with the country powers; the Court therefore hoped, by their marked disapprobation, to prevent any steps of the like kind in future; after the resistance which the Rajah has made no countenance could be consistently shown him nor was any measure for his restoration ever proposed. But whilst the Governor General remains subject to the orders of the Court of Directors he is bound to yield to their decrees. Therefore as his letter addressing them with such unguarded warmth must carry with it the appearance of tending to resist those whom it is his duty to obey we consider him, in that respect, to have been very blameable. However we turn aside from this disagreeable subject to express great approbation at the extraordinary exertions of our Governor General and Council to counteract the designs of our numerous enemies and to furnish such large assistance and supplies for the Carnatick in its wasted and desolate condition. It is to the abilities of our Commander in Chief, whose loss we severely lament, aided by your vigilance and support, we owe the preservation of that country, as the powerful irruptions of Hyder and the hostile measures of France had disabled our Governor and Council of Fort St. George from defending the possessions of our ally, the Nabob of Arcot.

9. We could have wished the treaty of peace with the Marattas<sup>1</sup> had been less humiliating, but we are truly sensible of the difficulties and embarrassments you had to encounter, the jarring interests that prevailed, above all the situation of the Carnatick and the burthensome expenses which combined to make it absolutely necessary to come to terms of accomodation with so powerful a body of enemies as the Maratta states compose. We have no doubt that every attention will be paid to preserve

the peace, and we shall enjoin the strictest care to be taken by the other Presidencies that on no pretence whatever they hazard the infringement of it. We trust that the peace in Europe, which has so well secured our rights, will restore the Carnatick in time to its former prosperity, and confine the successor of Hyder within his own dominions.

10. Under these circumstances we rely on your endeavours to lose no time in effecting every salutary reform and every reduction of expense possible. We depend on your care and attention to reduce the army in Bengal to that standard of troops and expense that amply provided for its defence for the space of ten or eleven years. Our civil expenses will admit, we apprehend, of considerable savings, and we trust the charges in collecting the revenues will allow of some retrenchments.

11. Those exorbitant commissions and agencies which have been produced by the war must now be at an end, and we cannot avoid expressing our disapproval of some of them which, we conceive, have been carried to an improvident, not to say an alarming, extent.

12. We have had such large draughts upon us, from the enormous expense of the war, that we must require you in the most serious manner to avoid the like in future, and to afford such means of assistance to Bombay, Madras and China as shall prevent our being loaded in those respects at least for some time to come.

13. Bombay has contracted a very heavy debt; the incapacity of that settlement to discharge it, or even provide for the interest thereon without your assistance, makes it an object worthy your consideration, whether the transferring that debt to Bengal and engrafting it into your own bonded debt may not be more consistent with the general interest than leaving it at Bombay. This will depend very much upon the state of remittance or exchange between Bengal and the western side of India. In the interim we expect you [to] pay every attention in your power to provide for the regular payment of the interest which not only the credit of the Company but justice to those individuals who trusted us with their property when we stood in need of assistance requires at our hands. It is our intention to confine the establishment of Bombay to that force alone which shall be sufficient for the defence of the island, the harbour Salsette and the castle of Surat; all other factories or dependencies we mean to restrict to mere residencies, confining them within as small an expense as possible, sufficient only for the protection of our warehouses.

14. We hope that you will use your influence, if necessary, to prevail on the Nabob of Arcot to reduce his expences all he can, consistent with his dignity, and to consider that justice calls upon him, in the strongest terms, to reimburse the Company a reasonable portion of those heavy charges incurred to save him and his country from destruction.

15. Upon the whole we confide in and rely on your experience, discernment and exertions to retrieve, by every salutary check and



retrenchment, those distresses which the fatal consequences of the complicated wars we have been engaged in have brought on. Effectual reforms and improvements in these respects will afford you our highest approbation.

16. A bill has lately been under the discussion of Parliament, by which, had the same passed into a law, the constitution of the Company would have been totally changed, and they divested of all authority. But we are happy to inform you that though this bill passed the House of Commons, yet the House of Lords thought proper to reject it. It is expected, however, that another bill relative to India will be brought forward after the recess, which we trust will be far less exceptionable than the former, and shall less affect the chartered rights of the East India Company.

17. In the 51st paragraph of our letter dated the 2nd February 1781, we disapproved the encreased allowance of 2,500 rupees per month made to Sir John Day, our Advocate General, and ordered that the same be discontinued from the receipt of that letter.

18. We have taken into consideration your proceedings, also the letter Sir John Day addressed you on this subject, and your advices of the 29th December 1781 and 7th December 1782; but for the reasons signified in our abovementioned letter we direct that you require Sir John Day to refund whatever he may have been paid beyond the Company's original allowance of £3000 a year from the receipt of our said letter.

19. In the 33rd paragraph of our letter of the 15th January last you were advised of our transmitting you in triplicate, in compliance with an Act of Parliament, authenticated copies of particulars and inventories of the estates and effects of Sir Thomas Rumbold Baronet and Peter Perring Esqr. In obedience to another act, copy whereof is transmitted by the *Surprize*, we send, by that vessel, authenticated copies of particulars and inventories of the estates and effects of John Whitehill Esqr.; duplicate and triplicate whereof will be sent by the ships *Hillsborough* and *Earl Cornwallis*, and we refer you to the directions given in the abovementioned letter by which you must be guided as in the former instance.

20. The gentlemen whom we last season appointed writers for your Presidency are to rank in the following order viz., Charles Taylor, Christopher Roberts, John Cheap, Harry Verelst Darell, Thomas Godfrey Lushington, Samuel Davis, John Williams, Stewart Rose, John Ramsay, Thomas Abraham, George Charles Meyer, Sir Charles William Blunt, Andrew Gardiner, Henry Foster, Neil Benjamin Edmonstone, Robert Ard, John Routledge, Joseph Bourdieu, Francis Hawkins, Alfred Tufton, John Fombelle, George Dowdeswell, William Towers Smith, William Smith, Charles Andrew Bruce, Alexander Wright, Francis Smyth, Charles Law,

Thomas Parr, Richard Waring, Joseph Yorke Kinlock, Humphrey Ashley Sturt, Thomas L. N. Sturt, Jeremy Sneyd, Edmiston.

21. Mr. John Mee, whom we appointed a writer for Bombay last year, is removed to your Presidency in the room of and with the rank assigned Robert Wilkinson, whose name appears on the list of 1781.

22. We have permitted Lieutenant Peter Combault to return to our military service at your Presidency without prejudice to his rank.

23. Lieutenant Colonel Dugald Campbell and Ensigns James White and John McRae of the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Regiment will be provided with a passage to India, at the Company's expense, on board the ship *Lord Camden*.

24. Mr. Diego Talamas who lately arrived overland with dispatches from your Presidency has been provided with a passage thither, at the Company's expense, on the ship *Earl Cornwallis*.

25. John Udney Esqr., His Majesty's Consul at Leghorn, having in consequence of the letter of credit you gave Mr. Talamas advanced him the sum of £300, and drawn upon us for the amount, we discharged the same and allowed Mr. Talamas two hundred and fifty guineas for his trouble; and we direct that you settle his accounts on his arrival in Bengal. An account of the expenses paid for his maintenance in England is transmitted by the *Earl Cornwallis*.

26. Messrs. George Hepburn, Andrew Mouatt, Frederick Augustus Prescote, John Forbes, John Clement Cozens, John Philip Gardiner, Stephen Harris, Thomas Wright, Alexander Rutherford Smith, Andrew Wood, Robert Udney, Richard Woodmass and Thomas Brown have obtained our license to proceed to India as free mariners; and Mr. John Kidd has our leave to return thither in that capacity.

27. We have also permitted Mr. John North who is now in India to remain there as a free mariner.

28. We are sorry to inform you that the ship *Warren*, laden at Fort Marlborough for Europe, was lost on her entrance into the English Channel, and we transmit, for your information, copy of a narrative received from Captain Richard Parkes respecting that unhappy event.

29. Mr. Nathaniel Brassey Halhed, having recovered his health, has our permission to return to Bengal without prejudice to his rank; and as we are satisfied that this gentleman possesses extraordinary abilities and is entitled for his past services to some mark of our favour, we direct that he be appointed to the first seat in the Council of Revenue at Calcutta which shall become vacant after his arrival; unless before such vacancy

happens it should be found necessary, for the benefit of the service, to employ his talents some other way.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith / Wm. Devaynes /  
J. Smith / John Roberts / George  
Tatem / Lionel Darell / Thos. Parry /  
John Hunter / W.<sup>\*</sup>Bensley / Rd. Hall /  
Thos. Cheap / Step. Lushington / Jacob  
Bosanquet / Joseph Sparkes.

London,  
the 28th January 1784.

Company's General Letter, per *Mansfield*.

Received the 16th August.

Orders issued the 23rd August.

### ENCLOSURE

(*Vide paragraph 28*)

[1] We left St. Helena the 5th day of October 1783, and had a very favourable passage until the 29th of November when we were in the latitude of 49° North and longitude 18° 30m West. On the 30th at night by the log it came on to blow and we were under the main sail and foresail all night. At 2 in the morning, Sunday, it became moderate and by 5 it was almost calm, but the sea ran high. At ½ past 5 the ship gave a sudden and deep scend aft, and received so violent a shock that I thought the whole stern frame had been knocked in. At the same time bowsprit and foremast went away, the former just without the gammoning and the foremast close to the upper deck. The foremast fell aft, all within board, and stove one of our boats and most of the beams of the upper deck. The fall of the fore topmast broke the main top sail yard and [main] yard, and soon after, by the roll of the ship, the main topmast went away and brought down with it the most of the top cross-trees and trussel-trees, and also broke the fore topmast. We did not perceive the ship made any more water than usual, pumping once in two or four hours. It took us three days to clear ourselves of the wreck. On Monday we spoke the *Fly* brig, from Newfoundland, George White master; he stayed by us all night and in the morning, Tuesday, the sea running too high to venture out his boat, took leave of us. This day we got the cross jack yard for a main yard, and a fore topsail bent to it and reefed, also a mizen for a main stay sail, and under this sail we went 3 or 4 knotts. We also threw over board all the guns abaft the main mast and about 200 bags of the Hon'ble Company's pepper to ease the ship by the stern. Spoke a French snow from the West Indies. On Wednesday, while the people were at dinner, the wind shifted suddenly six points and before we could get the yard down the sail blew to pieces.

[2] This night Wednesday, Thursday by the log, made a main sail out of a new fore sail. We found the ship to make more water and in the morning had four feet above the keelson; the pumps going all day, by night we had reduced it to 2 feet 8 inches. This day we got one half of the main yard forward and secured for a bowsprit. At about 8 this night, Friday by the log, it came on to blow violently hard from the North and the ship, on the first of it, received several horrid shocks so as to make us fear she would instantly go to pieces; and I was of opinion, from the resistance that the ship made, that she was then water logged, although the report made to me but just before was only 2.8; in less than an hour we had six feet water above the keelson. All hands to the pumps the whole night and at daylight we found the ship had gained upon us very considerably. Two of our pumps out of four were choaked by the pepper. At about 8 on Friday morning we saw a sail and nearly at the same time our rudder went away from the tellerhead. We had on first seeing the sail made the usual signal of distress, but our situation being now truly deplorable, our only remaining boat having been stove in the night, we continued firing guns until the ship came to our assistance when she proved to be the *Duke of Richmond* transport, Richd. Davis commander, from New York with Hessian troops. We had now nine feet water above the keelson and it was the opinion of every one on board we had nothing left to save our lives but quitting our ships and taking refuge in the *Richmond*; by nine at night, with the *Richmond's* boats, every soul was saved to the number of 119 with some of our cloaths; the pumps were kept going as long as there were hands to work them, and when the carpenter left the ship he reported to me eleven feet above the keelson.

[3] I got on board the *Richmond* about 9 o'clock, and endeavoured to persuade the captain to stay by the wreck all night, but as she had now near 700 men on board and fearing it would come on to blow, thinking also he could be of no further use, he made the best of his way on.

[4] The weather all this day proved very favorable, more so than it had done for some time past, and I was in hopes, after all our lives were saved, the same weather would have continued a little longer and we might have had a trip with the boats for the Company's packets; but the weather threatening prevented it. We had the packets ready and would have saved them if possible but they were too large and heavy to throw into the boats and we saved but very little any other way, the people in the boats fearing to come near the ship least she should go down and carry them with her.

[5] We were this day in the latitude of  $49^{\circ} 20'$  and longitude, by account,  $13^{\circ} 00'$  West, Friday 5th December 1783.

[6] We continued on board the *Richmond* until the 25th when we cast anchor in the Downes; a small boat came off but the weather looking bad I agreed with the man to go ashore and bring off a boat for myself

and officers, but it blowing hard he did not come off until this morning when she took us on shore, for which I paid him five guineas by agreement.

December 26th 1783.

R. Parkes, commander.

Copy of a letter from Captain Parkes, late commander of the  
*Warren*, respecting the loss of that ship.  
No. 15.

28

## LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1784

*Goods sent out—punishment for aiding foreign companies—British subjects to reside within ten miles of a settlement—orders relating to appointment of surgeons—Governor General to submit particulars of the presents received by him.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you under date the 28th January last by the ship *Earl of Mansfield*; duplicate and triplicate of our said letter will be forwarded by the *Surprize* packet, and the ship *Earl Cornwallis*.

2. The consignments to our several Presidencies in India and to China this season will principally consist of the following particulars, viz.,

### For Bengal

Cloth 700 bales, long ells 75 bales, broad long ells 40 bales, copper 810 tons, lead 50 tons, iron 50 tons, steel 20 tons, small arms 3000 musquets; also 50 tons of lead and 50 tons of iron, shipped in the *Surprize* packet, in part of the consignments of next season.

### For Fort St. George

Cloth 504 bales, long ells 25 bales and 5 bales of serges for cartridges, copper 180 tons, lead 50 tons, iron 50 tons, small arms 6000 musquets.

### For Bombay

Cloth 661 bales, long ells 150 bales, broad long ells 20 bales, copper (including 50 tons for sheathing ships) 210 tons, lead 50 tons, iron 50 tons, steel 30 tons, small arms 5800 musquets.



## For Fort Marlborough

Beef and pork 37 casks, flour 6 tons, 10 tons of fine iron, small arms 60 musquets.

## For China

Cloth 2470 bales, long ells 25,000 pieces, camblets 920 pieces and lead 250 tons.

3. The quantity of salt petre, to be exported from our several Presidencies by the returning ships of this season, must be the same as directed by our letter of the 11th January 1781, as the Company continue the same agreement with the owners of shipping for that purpose.

4. As difficulties frequently arise respecting the payment of insurance on ships lost, from the want of sufficient information whether they were lost on their outward voyage, we direct that you transmit to us the particulars of the loss of any of our ships consigned to your Presidency.

5. We direct that you send us annually as correct an account as can be obtained of all foreign ships arriving from and sailing to Europe, with the particulars of their cargoes.

6. The establishment of packets being a very great expense to the Company, we have determined that the larger vessels should not be continued thereon. And it not being our intention to continue the *Mercury* and *Antelope* in our service as packets, unless they may be particularly wanted, we direct that in case either or both those vessels should happen to be at your Presidency, upon the receipt hereof, you dispose of them upon our account, or add them to the Bombay Marine establishment if necessary, as may be deemed most for the Company's advantage.

7. Copies of several clauses in an Act passed in the 21st year of His present Majesty's reign, prohibiting British subjects residing in India from assisting foreign companies etc., are transmitted, that you may cause the same to be circulated as diffusively as possible; and we positively direct that all our servants, without distinction, transgressing against the said Act be forthwith dismissed the Company's service; and from any persons under our protection offending in like manner such protection must be immediately withdrawn, and the offender sent to England by the first opportunity.

8. We also forward copies of a clause in the said Act to oblige British subjects in India to reside within ten miles of some principal settlement and direct that the same be made as public as possible.

9. Messrs. Charles White, William Roy, Mark Riley, Henry Lawrie, John Nankivell, George Browne, Richard Iveson, Thomas Stocks and Charles Crawford have leave to proceed to the East Indies under free mariners' indentures.

10. We disapprove the appointments made by you between the 1st January 1782 and 10th March 1783 of twenty-four assistant surgeons, viz., Hug Mahon, Robert Anderson, John Lamb Morris, James Grant, Wm. Hunter, John Shaw, Patrick Ivory, Thos. Watt, Walter Williams, Thos. Luke Stoke, John Burgh, Alexr. Morine, James Orrock, Geo. Davidson, James Campbell, Alexr. Russel, Wm. Cooper, Wm. Jones, Thos. Wilkins, Wm. Davidson, Thos. Clarke, Wm. Cooke, Thos. Powles, and positively direct that on receipt of this letter you revoke the said appointments.

11. And in order to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the removal of the said 24 persons and to provide for other casualties we have resolved to permit 26 assistant surgeons, should so many offer, to proceed to India this season on the usual conditions.

12. We permit the 24 assistant surgeons appointed by you to remain in India to practise in their profession and direct that they be reappointed to vacancies, as they may happen, after the said 26 assistant surgeons shall have been provided for.

13. Mr. Thomas Morris, one of the said 24 assistant surgeons whom you ordered to proceed to England as surgeon of the *Warren*, has obtained our leave to return to your Presidency under the circumstances above-mentioned.

14. We have further resolved that no more surgeons be allowed to proceed till it shall be known whether their services be wanted in India; and in order to ascertain this point we direct that you regularly transmit to us statements of the number of surgeons and surgeons' assistants necessary for your establishment, describing the different departments where they are to be employed; and also that you forward annually (in duplicate at least) lists of surgeons and assistant surgeons belonging to your Presidency.

15. And in case it should happen at any time that the establishment at one Presidency should be more than compleat while that at another is deficient it is our order that the deficiency at one settlement be supplied from the redundancy of the other. We therefore direct you to advise our other Presidencies from time to time of the number upon your establishment in order for their making the necessary arrangements accordingly.

16. We have permitted the following persons to proceed to India as part of the 26 assistant surgeons beforementioned, their rank will be advised by a future conveyance, viz., Messrs. Turnbull, Wm. Gardiner, John Castairs, Geo. Paton, Thos. Casement, Geo. Toshach, Edwd. Bright, John Corse, John Smith, Geo. Ranken, Gilbert Macleod, Charles Fyffe, Wm. Johnson—to remain until next season, James Smith, John Wood, James Meek, James Nasmyth, Michael Kearns, [.....] Mc. Evoy—to remain until next season, Charles Todd, Edward Turner, Richard Pye.

17. Mr. Adam Burt, an assistant surgeon, whom you appointed to attend Mr. Palk on the *Surprize* packet, has obtained our leave to return to his station.

18. Mr. Thomas Minchin has obtained our leave to proceed to India as an assistant surgeon with the rank assigned him in our letter of the 15th January 1783.

19. Mr. John Henderson, surgeon of the *Fox* packet, has our license for remaining in India to practise in his profession, in case that vessel shall be added to our marine, and we direct that he be appointed an assistant surgeon immediately after Mr. William Spottiswoode and last of the season 1782.

20. Mr. Joseph Price, whom we appointed to succeed to the post of Marine Storekeeper upon the death or resignation of Mr. Page Keble, as mentioned in our letter of the 25th January 1782, proceeds to your Presidency on the *Surprize* packet.

21. We have determined not to appoint any writers or cadets for either of our settlements this season.

22. Mr. William Johnson has been appointed a writer for your Presidency on the list of last year in the room of and with the rank assigned Richard Waring deceased.

23. The following writers, whom we appointed for your Presidency in the season 1780, have obtained our permission to proceed to their duty this season without prejudice to their rank, viz., James Wintle, Robert Lindsay.

24. We have permitted the following persons, whom we last year appointed writers for your Presidency, to remain in England untill next season without prejudice to their rank, viz., Christopher Roberts, Harry Verelst Darell, Charles Andrew Bruce, James Edmiston, William Tower Smith.

25. Mr. William Nathan Wrighte Hewett has obtained our leave to return to his rank in our civil service at your Presidency.

26. We have permitted the following military officers to return to your Presidency without prejudice to their respective rank, viz., Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Harper, Major John Fairfax, Captain Robert Rayne.

27. Mr. Thomas Broughton, who we advised you in our letter of the 23rd January 1783 had been appointed a practitioner engineer for your Presidency, has obtained our permission to proceed thither on one of the ships of this season without prejudice to his rank.

28. We confirm the appointment of William George Palmer whom you admitted a cadet on our establishment at your Presidency at the bottom of the list of cadets of 1781.

29. Mr. Robert Carruthers, whom we appointed a cadet for Fort St. George, is removed to Bengal with the rank of youngest cadet of last season.

30. The following persons have been appointed cadets for your Presidency on the lists of last year, in the room and with the rank of others undermentioned who have declined proceeding, viz.,

*For the infantry*

Robbins.....vice Samuel Dicken Grinsell  
Joseph Bellas.....James Powell  
Osborne.....Wolf

*For the artillery*

Joseph Birdworth.....vice George Manby  
Joseph Barnabas Sleath.....Edward Speke

31. The Christian name of Mr. Pollock, whom we last season appointed a cadet for your Presidency, is Hugh instead of John as mentioned in the list of cadets transmitted per *Swallow* and *Eurydice*; he proceeded on the ship *Berrington*.

32. We have permitted the Hon'ble Lockhart Gordon to proceed to your Presidency to practise as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

33. Mr. Henry Dogherty, who last season obtained the like permission, has taken his passage on the ship *Earl Cornwallis*.

34. Since closing our letter of the 28th ultimo we have advanced Mr. Diego Talamas the sum of two hundred guineas, for which he is to account with you on his arrival at your Presidency.

35. We transmit a list of goods to be provided at your Presidency for the ships taken into the Company's service in the season 1783, to which we require your strict obedience.

36. We have permitted the Hon'ble Charles Stuart to proceed to his rank in your civil service, but direct that he do not take his seat at the Board of Trade until a vacancy shall happen after his arrival, when he is to succeed thereto and take his rank agreeable to his standing.

37. Having a favourable opinion of the merits and abilities of Mr. Joshua Williams, whom you have appointed assistant to Mr. William

Cator, Collector of the Customs at Dacca, we direct that Mr. Williams do succeed to that office upon the first vacancy after your receipt of this letter.

38. We have appointed Mr. Ynyr Burges a writer for your Presidency in the room of Mr. Stewart Rose deceased; Mr. Burges is to rank as youngest writer of last season next under Mr. James Edmiston.

39. Since writing the 21st paragraph of this letter we have, upon the recommendation of very high authority, appointed Mr. Pellegrin Treves a writer on your establishment; he proceeds overland at his own expense.

40. We have taken into consideration the petition of Messrs. Uthoff, Fawcett, Crow and Broughton, writers on the Bombay establishment, referred to us in the 169th paragraph of your letter dated the 5th April 1783, praying to be admitted on the list of writers at your Presidency after the Honourable Frederick Fitzroy. The conduct of those gentlemen affords us pleasure, but as the removal of our servants from one Presidency to another is contrary to the practise of our service we cannot comply with their request.

41. It is therefore our order that Messrs. Uthoff, Fawcett, Crow and Broughton do proceed to Bombay by the first conveyance that shall offer after your receipt of this letter.

42. We have also considered the memorial of Mr. Robert Samuel Perreau of the Fort Marlborough civil establishment, referred to us in the 183rd paragraph of your said letter, praying to be removed to the Bengal establishment; but for the abovementioned reason we have resolved not to comply therewith, and we direct that Mr. Perreau do return to his duty at Fort Marlborough by the earliest opportunity.

43. Major John McGowan has obtained our permission to proceed overland at his own expense to his rank at your Presidency.

44. Mr. William East, who was appointed a cadet for Bombay in the season 1780, is removed to your Presidency on the list of last year in the room and with the rank of Isaac Rigge who has declined proceeding.

45. We observe by the 8th paragraph of your General Letter of the 30th April 1781 that you had, in conformity to our instructions, summoned the passengers of the ships *Neptune* and *Bellmont* and made inquiry of all of them respecting the sums paid by each of them for their passage and accommodation to India.

46. By a list which you have enclosed to us we find it stated that Captain Gamage had received £80 for the passage of Mr. Creswell, a cadet, and £100 each for Mr. Toone and Mr. Turner who went out also as cadets, and Captain Gamage has been charged with the penalties agreeable



to the resolution of Court. He however asserts that he received no more than £60 from Mr. Creswell. Although we have given entire credit and effect to the facts stated in the said list yet we should have been better satisfied in so doing had it anywhere appeared that you had examined the captain as well as the passengers, which we presume however was done as we do not think you would have taken the bare assertion of the latter as an absolute proof of the facts; we desire therefore in future that you will, in all cases, give the captain an opportunity of being heard, and that you will state in your letters the proceedings taken, and that you will inform us whether Captain Gamage was examined as to the passage money received by him from the said cadets; for if not we shall be inclined to refund to him the penalty on the money which he is charged with in respect to the passage of Mr. Creswell.

47. We have considered the letters from the Governor General of the 20th January, 22nd May and 16th December 1782, relative to presents, together with the account which accompanied the letter of the 22nd May. Although it is not our intention to express any doubt of the integrity of our Governor General, on the contrary, after having received the presents, we cannot avoid expressing our approbation of his conduct in bringing them to the credit of the Company, yet we must confess the statement of those transactions appears to us in many parts so unintelligible that we feel ourselves under the necessity of calling on the Governor General for an explanation agreeable to his promise, voluntarily made to us. We therefore desire to be informed of the different periods when each sum was received, and what were the Governor General's motives for withholding the several receipts from the knowledge of the Council or of the Court of Directors, and what were his reasons for taking bonds for part of these sums and for paying other sums into the treasury as deposits on his own account.

48. Mr. Thomas Morris, an assistant surgeon on your establishment, having represented to us that he came to England by your order as surgeon of the ship *Warren*, and praying to be paid wages untill his arrival in England; and it appearing by your agreement with Mr. Morris that he is entitled to his pay and *batta* untill his arrival in England, the amount whereof we cannot exactly ascertain but is supposed to be upwards of £260 per annum; we therefore direct that you settle Mr. Morris's account on his arrival at your Presidency, but we cannot avoid remarking the great impropriety of appointing one of the assistant surgeons on your establishment to proceed to England as surgeon of a freighted ship, and subjecting the Company to the expense of Mr. Morris's pay and *batta* while he acted in that station on board the *Warren*.

49. We have appointed John Dea a cadet for your Presidency on the list of last season in the room and with the rank of Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald who has declined proceeding.

50. We enclose correct lists of the cadets appointed for the infantry and artillery corps in Bengal in the season 1782, with their order of rank.

51. We direct that you send us by every ship an exact list of casualties in our army at your Presidency made up to the latest period possible, such information being of great importance to individuals in this country.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/ John  
Roberts/ L. Sullivan/W. Bensley/  
John Hunter/Jno. Michie/Joseph  
Sparkes/J. Smith/Jacob Bosanquet/  
Thos. Parry/George Tatem/Lionel  
Darrell/R. Hall.

London,  
the 16th March 1784.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 2.

Received per *Surprize* packet 28th August 1784.

Read in Council 3rd September.

## 29

### LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1784

*Bills proposing changes in the Company's administration rejected—economy in civil and military establishments—no bills of exchange to be drawn upon the Company—Madras investment to be increased.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In the month of November last, a bill was brought into Parliament vesting the whole property and management of the East India Company in Commissioners therein named, which was immediately followed by a regulation bill grounded on the powers so to be established.

2. The first bill having passed the House of Commons was rejected by the House of Lords and a change of administration immediately ensued.

3. The present ministers held communication with the Company on the principles of another bill which, having been brought in with the Company's concurrence after the Christmas recess, was on the second reading rejected by the House of Commons.

4. For your better information we enclose printed copies of all the three bills, also of the state of the Company's affairs as proved at the bar of the House of Lords, and of the resolutions of a General Court held the 10th January 1784 concerning the principles of the lost bill.

5. The House of Commons on the 23rd ultimo made an order that this Court should state the mode and extent of parliamentary interference necessary for the relief of the Company's affairs which unavoidably led to a review of the whole of our resources and situation, the results of which we enclose in a printed copy of our report to the House of Commons.

6. We think it proper thereon to observe to you that whilst we have deemed it prudent to confine the representation of our hopes from the resources in India within the most modest limits and far within what you must well know to be their just value, we do not the less rely on the exertion of your utmost endeavors not only to make them as productive as your own estimates warrant, but to continue and extend your retrenchment of expence and improvement of revenue to the utmost limit of prudence and justice, convinced as we are that much remains of this sort still to be done which depends upon local and temporary circumstances such as cannot be made the objects of our special direction but which must rest where we with confidence and satisfaction rest them, upon your zeal, integrity and ability.

7. All that we can contribute to your success in these particulars is the express sanction of our authority, which we hereby commit to you, for the carrying into immediate effect all such regulations of our establishments, civil and military, as shall appear best calculated to reduce the expence thereof within limits which you can defend as reasonable and which, we are confident, will be found far within the sums which, to obviate cavil, we have in our estimate assumed. It cannot escape your observation that in the present situation of affairs it may and probably will prove essential to the Company's existence that the general result of our affairs should at least verify the representation to which we have thus pledged our opinion.

8. We therefore here impose upon you our positive orders that, notwithstanding any former permission either direct or implied by the estimate now enclosed or otherwise, you do not after the receipt hereof draw any bill of exchange upon us unless you shall be warranted by some case of necessity so apparent that you may think it safe to rest your justification upon it.

9. That such a necessity may from possible events exist cannot be denied, and you must from the nature of your situation be left the judges thereof; but we apprise you that to obtain our approbation of any more bills being drawn upon us the necessity must be undeniable, and that reasons of convenience or expediency will not warrant the drawing them.

10. Next to drawing no bills yourselves the preventing their being drawn from our other settlements will require your assiduous attention, and we therefore direct that, upon a review of the situation of our affairs at the other Presidencies and in China, according to the latest

advices you shall have received, and of your own resources, you do, as soon as possible, determine what assistances you can give to each of them and apprise them what they have to expect.

11. We desire you will especially attend to the means of making such remittances to China as may, as far as possible, prevent any drafts from thence. We are well aware that there is some difficulty here which must be obviated according to circumstances on the spot and by means which cannot be directed from hence, but we trust that with the advantage of the trade in opium and other commodities of India to the Eastern Islands you will find it very practicable to accomplish this desirable purpose without any great or constant drain of specie from Bengal, which ought as far as possible in all cases to be avoided.

12. Our investments for Europe will demand your unremitting care, and as we hold it impossible but your funds for the provision thereof in Bengal must be ample it remains only to recommend, in the strongest manner, the exercise of economy in the purchases and the strictest attention to the quality. And here with pleasure we bestow our praise on what has of late been successfully done in both these instances, and entertain no doubt but that in a short time the quality of our merchandize imported will obtain for us a decided preference over the importations of any other country, a preference which the advantages we enjoy, within your Presidency at least, must surely place within our reach.

13. The state of your funds and our inability to pay bills of exchange obliged us to strike the important article of raw silk out of our Bengal investment, and we highly approve of your leaving that commodity for the present open to all our servants and others under our protection to make remittances in for their own account and for the benefit of this country; but whenever, from an estimate of our funds, you shall perceive a prospect at the distance of two years of being enabled to restore the accustomed quantity of silk to our investment without drawing bills, lessening the quantity of piece goods, or other necessary applications of the territorial revenue, you will then give the necessary notice of two years to the parties at present engaged in this article, and repossess yourselves of the filatures and reassume the exercise of our exclusive right in this article.

14. It will be of great importance that the investments from Madras should be increased for they are much in demand in Europe, and your aid in the funds that may for some time be required for that purpose will be therefore an object of your attentive consideration.

15. And upon the whole of the view we now give you of our affairs, we shall be glad to receive your opinions on every point you think important to be further discussed together with such materials as you think may tend to elucidate the same, and we desire that you will not

fail to give us the fullest advices of all your proceedings and prospects on the important subjects of this letter.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

London,  
the 16th March 1784.

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/John  
Roberts/L. Sullivan/W. Bensley/  
John Hunter/Jno. Michie/Joseph  
Sparkes/J. Smith/Jacob Bosanquet/  
Thos. Parry/George Tatem/Lionel  
Darell/Rd. Hall.

Company's Separate Letter to Bengal.  
Received per *Surprize* packet 28th August 1784.  
Read in Council 7th September.  
No. 3.

30

## LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1784

*The Board of Trade reprimanded for persistently sending home unprofitable goods—Company's servants suspected of aiding foreign investments.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We observe with surprize that for many years past instead of our Board of Trade conforming to the orders in our investment, respecting the quantities of the different goods ordered, they have considerably increased those articles which yield us no profit, while, on the other hand, they have fallen far short of other goods which are highly advantageous.

2. We view the conduct of our Board of Trade in these instances with the more astonishment because we are convinced it does not arise from their not being able to procure a larger quantity of such goods, as we find from the cargos of the foreign ships, particularly the Danes, that arrived in Europe in August 1783, that they consist in general of the most valuable assortments of piece goods and in particular partake largely of those very goods in which the deficiencies in our investment arise.

3. We therefore call upon you to make the strictest enquiry into these several circumstances relative to the manufactures and the conduct of the Board of Trade in the glaring instances of disobedience to the assortments of our investment, for we are determined to suspend them from the service whenever the like disregard of our instructions shall appear.



4. There is too much reason to suspect that our commercial servants have at times assisted the investments of foreign European nations; this appears to be brought home in the case of Mr. Paxton whose claim we have resolved to resist, and we do require you to make example of whoever of our servants shall be discovered to embark in any transactions of this kind in future, conformably to our orders contained in the 7th paragraph of our General Letter of this date.

5. It is our most positive injunction that the quantities ordered in our investment of the following goods be not increased on any account.

Alliballies	...	...	...	FSFA
Carridarries of all sorts				
Doreas checked	...	...	...	FCFEDOO
Doreas Cossajurah		...	...	FCDOO
Doreas Dacca	...	...	...	FDDOO
Doreas Dacca	...	...	...	FSF Char
Doreas Dacca	...	...	...	FFlo FDoo 40 Covids
Doreas Dacca	...	...	...	20 Covids
Kissersoys	...	...	...	
Nainsocks	...	...	...	
Neckcloths	...	...	...	FNEC
Nillaes	...	...	...	MNIL
Romals Barnagore		...	...	NBRom
Romals Soot	...	...	...	F Sut Rom
Sannoes	...	...	...	M SANS
Sannoes thick	...	...	...	SAN SF
Sannoes thick	...	...	...	SANSSF
Seer Suckers	...	...	...	SFFr S
Seer Suckers	...	...	...	Seers SF
Seer Suckers	...	...	...	Seers O
Seer Suckers	...	...	...	F Seer F
Seer Suckers	...	...	...	M Seer S
Taffaties plain	...	...	...	TAF
Taffaties red	...	...	...	R TAF
Taffaties	...	...	...	TAFU

6. We transmit two letters from Mr. James Wiss, our Superintendent of raw silk, containing his observations on that article; to any intelligence therein contained that may tend to the improvement of that trade you will pay the proper attention.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

London,  
the 16th March 1784.

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/John  
Roberts/L. Sullivan/W. Bensley/John  
Hunter/Jno. Michie/J. Smith/Jacob  
Bosanquet / Thos. Parry / George  
Tatem/Lionel Darell/Rd. Hall.

Company's Separate Letter to Bengal. No. 4. Per *Surprize* packet.  
Received and read in Council 1st September,

## LETTER DATED 23 APRIL 1784

*Board of Trade directed to advertise for sealed tenders for supply of investment—the Nawab of Arcot assured that his complaints against the Madras Government were receiving attention.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letters were dated the 16th ultimo, and will be transmitted with this letter by the ship *Earl Cornwallis* and the *Surprise* packet.

2. Having reason to be dissatisfied with the present mode adopted by the Board of Trade for concluding the investment contracts, we direct that in future they advertize for sealed proposals, and that such proposals be delivered to the Governor General and Council, who are hereby directed to accept of the lowest terms that may be offered, provided they are accompanied with good security. The Governor General and Council are then to give the necessary information to the Board of Trade, with directions that they be particularly attentive that the contractors perform their engagement both as to the quantity and quality of the goods.

3. We have permitted Mr. James Grant to return to our civil service at your Presidency, but on account of his long absence from his duty, we direct that he takes rank next under the youngest senior merchant, who became such in the season of 1783.

4. Captain Robert Rayne, whom we permitted to return to his rank in our service at your Presidency, has obtained our leave to proceed overland, the Company being at no expense thereby.

5. Jeremiah Martin Johnson has been appointed a cadet for your Presidency, with the rank of last upon the list of last season, in the room of James Mc. Dougal deceased.

6. Having advanced Mr. Thomas Morris the sum of £50, on account of the pay and allowances due to him during the time he acted as surgeon of the ship *Warren*, we direct that the said sum be deducted on your final liquidation of Mr. Morris's accounts.

7. We have appointed John William a cadet for the artillery at your establishment, in the room and with the rank of Joseph Barnabas Sleath, who has declined proceeding, and permitted him to remain in England till next season.

8. Mr. Henry Beddingfield, whom we appointed last season a cadet for your Presidency, has our permission to remain in England till next year without prejudice to his rank.

9. You were acquainted in our letter of the 16th ultimo, that we should not appoint any cadets for the East Indies this season, but we have since thought proper to appoint William Fead and Robert Hetzler cadets for our artillery establishment at your Presidency.

10. We have under our consideration the several advices and papers received from India relative to the assignment of the revenues of the Carnatic, from the conclusion of the Bengal treaty in April 1781 to the date of the last letter from Fort St. George in October 1783; and we shall transmit our sentiments and determination on that subject by a packet which we have ready for that purpose.

11. By a letter from Mr. John Hare, dated at Bussora the 8th of February last, we are informed that he transmitted us, by Captain Haldane, commander of the *Nancy* packet, which sailed from Bombay the 7th of October last, two packets from the Governor General and Council, and one packet from the Governor General, which he had been charged with, but the unfortunate loss of that vessel off Scilly on the 25th of February last, with all the persons on board, has deprived us of those dispatches.

12. We have received from Mr. Hare, overland, a duplicate of your letter dated the 28th of April 1783.

13. We have received your several advices by the *Nurbuddah*, and are happy at the prospect they afford us of a final accomplishment of a general peace in Hindostan. It is impossible for us to reply fully to those advices by the present dispatch, but we must, however, recommend it to you, in the strongest manner, to persevere in your endeavors towards a reduction of expence in every department of Government.

14. We have thought it necessary by this conveyance to write a short letter to the Nabob of Arcot, a copy whereof is enclosed in the packet for your information.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/Lau.  
Sullivan / John Hunter / George  
Tatem/J. Manship/Edm. Boehm/  
Hugh Inglis / W. Bensley / Samuel  
Smith junior/J. Smith/John Mot-  
teux/Paul Le Mesurier/Jno. Michie/  
Thos. Parry/C. Mills/F. Baring/Rd.  
Hall.

London,  
the 23rd April 1784.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 1.

Received per *Surprise* packet 28th August 1784.

Read in Council 1st September.







Muhammad Ali Nawab Walajah of Arcot



## ENCLOSURE I

*(Vide paragraph 14)*

To His Highness the Nabob Wau Lau Jau Ummeer ul Hind Amdhat ul Mulk Seranjee ul Dowla Anwer ul deen Cawn Behauder Munsoor Jung Sepah Saulaur Subahdar of Arcot and the Carnatick.

[1] We have been honoured with the receipt of your Highness's letters of the 13th October and the 1st of November 1782, the 25th March, the 12th August, with a postscript of the 16th, the 6th September, with a postscript of the 7th September, and the 1st of October 1783.

[2] It gave us the most heartfelt concern to find that any cause of discontent had arisen between your Highness and our President and Council. The various matters in dispute are at this moment under our most serious consideration, and we shall, by an early conveyance, reply fully to the several points which your Highness has been pleased to submit to our decision. In the meantime we can, with truth, assure your Highness of our utmost attention to your interest, rights and dignity.

[3] In testimony whereof we have hereunto affixed our Great Seal in the city of London this 23rd day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.

23rd April 1784.

Copy.

Company's Letter to the Nabob of Arcot.  
No. 42.

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LETTER DATED 15 JUNE 1784

*Shipping and investments.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

[1] Inclosed we transmit you a triplicate of our letter of the 16th March last, and of our printed report to the House of Commons. therein referred to.

[2] A dissolution of Parliament has since taken place and the new House of Commons on the 26th ultimo issued an order, in obedience to which we on the 31st ultimo made a further report, of which you have also a printed copy inclosed.

[3] You will thereby perceive that we had received your advices by the *Narbudda*, and will judge how much our astonishment must have been excited at the contents of those of the 30th November, by the *Worcester*, which came to hand the 3d instant.

[4] The whole tenor of your letters, up to the date of that dispatch, uniformly shews that your provision for the investment of the present season consisted of the following particulars:

	Rs.
Amount of the cargoes of the <i>Resolution</i> , <i>Worcester</i> , <i>Norfolk</i> and <i>Hinchinbrook</i> ... ..	61,05,840
Produce of the old investment ... ..	37,50,000
Do. Dutch investment ... ..	18,98,288
Do. Subscription 1782 ... ..	1,00,00,000
Do. Subscription of April 1783 ... ..	50,00,000
Do. Subscription of May 1783 ... ..	15,00,000
Do. Subscription of August 1783 ... ..	35,00,000
Total Rupees ... ..	3,17,54,128

- Cargoes
- 1

*Rodney*  
*Worcester*  
*Winterlon*  
*Norfolk*  
*Resolution*  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  *Busbridge*  
1 *Belmont*  
*Barwell*  
*Atlas*  
*Ceres*  
*Earl Talbot*  
*Halsewell*  
*Lord Macartney*  
*Fox*  
*Vansiltart*  
*Pigot*  
*Earl of Oxford*  
*Major*  
*Besborough*  
*Warren Hastings*

And the *Hinchinbrook* having been unloaded all the cargoes you can have had to provide in the present season amount to  $19\frac{1}{2}$  cargoes as per margin, which at the high average of 15 lacks per ship only amount to rupees 2,92,50,000. So that there remains an overplus of more than 25 lacks to stand against disappointment in the deliveries, after lading every ship which you can have had to load, the *Southampton* excepted which we consider as not in a condition to come home this season.

$19\frac{1}{2}$  Cargoes

[5] Upon this ground we would not hesitate to form the opinion we did that you could not possibly have occasion to draw any more bills for the investments of the season 1783/4, instead of which you now inform us that, upon a representation from the Board of Trade of the

28th October, 7 more cargoes were still wanted, that you had on the 5th November established a new subscription of 50 lacks towards providing the same, to be drawn for upon us on the 1st of February 1785; and although the *Nurbudda* was dispatched expressly with advices, and her commander did not leave Calcutta untill the 11th November, and though the *Rodney* was dispatched the 24th November with a letter stating that you had written us so fully by the *Nurbudda* that you had only occasion to inclose the *Rodney's* invoice, yet you did not, by either of these conveyances, think fit to inform us of this most important measure, nor do you, by the *Worcester*, state the reasons given by the Board of Trade for the deficiency of cargoes, nor even that their representation contains any reason, but refer us, by a marginal reference, to your consultations which, by another ship's packet, appear to be on board the *Winterton* not yet arrived.

[6] Justice to you requires that we should wait her arrival before we form any decisive judgement on this mysterious transaction, either as to its mode or substance, but the same principle towards the subscribers impells us not to lose a day in communicating to you our entire disapprobation of the transaction, as far as we yet understand it, and to observe that these bills appear clearly to be intended to be drawn in defiance of an act of Parliament and of our most positive orders, for which reasons we cannot suffer those who may take them to entertain any hope either that Parliament will permit us or we shall be disposed, on any terms, to accept bills drawn under such circumstances.

[7] We therefore recommend to you to redeem the engagement, so as to make the amount payable out of our resources in India, on the best and most economical terms you can, persuaded that the holders of your engagement must easily be convinced that it will not be for their interest or convenience to insist on your literal compliance with it under these circumstances, and that by the time this letter can reach you our resources in India must be in so good a state as to leave no difficulty in your liquidating this demand within a very reasonable time.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Nath. Smith/W. Devaynes/Lau.  
Sullivan/J. Manship/J. Smith/Jno.  
Michie/F. Baring/George Tatem/  
Hugh Inglis/W. Bensley/Paul Le  
Mesurier/John Motteux/Tho. Parry/  
Richard Atkinson/Edm. Boehm/  
Samuel Smith junior.

London,  
the 15th June 1784.

*Via Bussorah, received per Neptune.*  
Read in Council 8th November 1784.

## LETTER DATED 16 JUNE 1784

*Receipt of dispatches acknowledged.*

Gentlemen,

[1] I have received the commands of the Court of Directors to acquaint you that, since the closing their letter of yesterday, your dispatches by the *Winterton* have been received, and although the Court has not had time to take them into full consideration yet they afford grounds to be dissatisfied with the very extraordinary circumstances which have attended the investment for 1783/4, and which they mean immediately to investigate.

[2] In the mean time they direct me to acquaint you that they confirm the contents of the accompanying letter dated yesterday.

I am with the greatest respect,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

East India House,  
London the 16th June 1784.

Tho. Morton,  
Secretary.

The Honourable the Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Secretary's Letter to Bengal.

No. 4.

*Via Bussorah, received per Neptune.*  
Read in Council 8th November.

## LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1784

*Act of Parliament for better regulation and management of the affairs of the Company.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We take the earliest opportunity of transmitting you a copy of an Act of Parliament, which has lately passed, entitled "An Act for the

better Regulation and Management of the Affairs of the East India Company, and of the British Possessions in India; and for establishing a Court of Judicature for the more speedy and effectual Trial of Persons accused of Offences committed in the East Indies"; and direct that you take the most effectual measures to circulate the same throughout the districts under your authority.

2. We shall shortly advise you of the several appointments and arrangements which are to be made in consequence of this Act. In the mean time you will continue to exert yourselves to the utmost of your power for the advantage of your employers.

3. On the 3rd instant we received, by the way of Bussorah, a letter from Messrs. Staunton and Huddleston dated at Tellicherry the 17th March last, with the Treaty of Peace between the Company and the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Behauder concluded the 11th of that month.

We are,

Your affectionate friends.

Signed by order of the Court of  
Directors of the United  
East India Company.

East India House,  
London the 20th August 1784.

Thos. Morton,  
Secretary.

General Letter from the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Dated 20th August 1784.

Received 25th February 1785 per *Lizard*.

## LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1784

*Macartney appointed Governor of Madras, and Boddam, Governor of Bombay.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In consequence of the late Act of Parliament, herewith transmitted, we have appointed the Right Honorable Lord Macartney to be President and Governor of Fort St. George and Alexander Davidson and James Daniel Esquires to be Counsellors of the said settlement or Presidency. And we have also appointed Mr. Sadlier to the Chiefship of Masulipatam in the room of Mr. Daniel.



2. We have likewise appointed Rawson Hart Boddam Esqr. to be Governor, and Robert Sparks and Richard Church Esquires to be the two Counsellors of our Presidency of Bombay; and we have thought it of importance to give you the earliest notice of such appointments that the purposes of the Act of Parliament may be carried into execution.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nath. Smith/W. Devaynes/L. Sullivan / Geo. Johnston / J. Manship / Thos. Parry/F. Baring/Richard Atkinson/Edm. Boehm/Step. Lushington / Hugh Inglis / John Hunter / Joseph Sparkes/Paul Le Mesurier/Jno. Michie/Samuel Smith junior/John Motteux.

London,  
the 10th September 1784.

General Letter from the Court of Directors.

Dated 10th September 1784.

Received 25th February 1785 per *Lizard*.

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## LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1784

*Members of the Committee of Secrecy—copies of maps, charts and plans to be sent to England—persons appointed to reversionary stations in the Board of Trade to receive junior merchant's pay—the jurisdiction of Bengal and Madras Governments fixed by law—representations from Indian rulers to be sent through the subordinate Governments with whom the rulers may be connected—Governor General and members of the Supreme Council thanked by the Court for their services during the late war—David Anderson's successful negotiations at the Maratha Court—Bombay's financial distress.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you overland under date the 15th June, 20th August and 10th September; transcripts of those letters are forwarded herewith.

2. Since our letter of the 15th June last, we have received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letters dated the 30th December 1783, 19th January, 9th, 16th and 28th February 1784.

Secret Letters dated the 31st December 1783, 15th January, 7th, 16th and 28th February 1784.

Revenue Letters dated the 19th January and 9th February 1784.

Letters from the Governor General dated the 28th November and 16th December 1783, 1st January and 21st February 1784.

Letters from the Board of Trade dated the 29th and 30th December 1783, 17th, 22nd and 30th January, 10th and 24th February 1784.

3. We cannot by the present dispatch reply to the whole of the above advices, but shall take a very early opportunity of giving our orders and directions, in such parts of them as may demand our attention and are not adverted to in the present dispatch.

4. The following ships are taken up in part of the number intended to be sent to the East Indies and China in the ensuing season, viz.,

Tons				
<i>Locko</i>	...	758	Captain John Baird	China
<i>General Coole</i>		755		St. Helena and China
<i>Raymond</i>	...	755	Henry Smedley	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Asia</i>	...	758	Robert Maw	Bencoolen and China
<i>Houghton</i>	...	755	Captain James Munro	} Madeira, Coast and China
<i>Osterley</i>	...	758	Samuel Rogers	
<i>Essex</i>	...	758	John Strover	} Coast and China
<i>Winterton</i>	...	755	Raymond Snow	
<i>Montagu</i>	...	755	Thomas Brettell	} Madeira, Coast and Bay
<i>Dublin</i>	...	755	William Smith	
<i>Rodney</i>	...	755	Henry Wakeman	} Coast and Bay
<i>Deptford</i>	...	755	James Elkington	
<i>Dutton</i>	...	755	James West	
<i>Francis</i>	...	755	James Urmston	
<i>King George</i>		755	Jonathan Court	Bombay and Bengal
[...]	...	755	Honourable Willm. Elphinstone	Madeira and Bombay
<i>Northumber- land</i>	...	755	James Rees	Bombay

5. All the above ships are taken up at £28 per ton freight to China direct, Coast and China and Bencoolen, £29 per ton freight to Bombay, and £30 per ton freight to Coast and Bay. In most other respects they are entertained on the same terms as the ships of last season, as will appear by a reference to their respective charterparties.

6. In addition to the ships beforementioned we have fitted out the Company's ship *Britannia*, Captain Edward Cumming, burthen 770 tons, for a voyage to Coast and China.

7. The quantity of saltpetre to be exported from our several Presidencies, by the returning ships of this season, must be the same as directed by our letter of the 11th of January 1781, the Company continuing the same agreement with the owners of shipping for that purpose.

8. We have appointed Nathaniel Smith Esqr. our Chairman, William Devaynes Esqr. our Deputy Chairman together with John Manship, John Michie, Laurence Sullivan and John Woodhouse Esqrs. to be the Committee of Secrecy for giving the necessary directions respecting the safety of the Company's shipping. The orders therefore of any three of the said Committee respecting the same must be obeyed with the greatest punctuality.

9. In the 6th paragraph of our letter dated the 5th of February 1777, we acquainted you with our resolution of encreasing the allowance to be paid into the Company's treasuries in India by the commanders and officers of our freighted ships, on account of the produce of their licensed adventures, to £8000 for each ship; but it being indispensably necessary, in the present situation of the Company's affairs, to limit as much as possible the amount of drafts to be drawn from their several Presidencies, we have determined to revoke the said resolution, and accordingly direct that in future the commanders and officers be restricted to the sum of £5000, to be paid in for certificates for each respective ship. And in granting such certificates you are to be governed by our orders of the 15th December 1775 and the 10th of September 1783.

10. We have permitted Major Alexander Mackenzie to return to our military establishment at your Presidency. We have not thought proper to restore him to his full rank, but have granted him a commission to take rank as lieutenant colonel from the 12th of September, 1779, which will make him the eldest lieutenant colonel, agreeably to the list of officers received from your Presidency by the *Nurbudda*. He proceeded on the Danish ship *Hussar*.

11. The President and Council at Fort St. George having advanced Dennis Weldon and John Smith, cadets for your Presidency, who were saved from the *Duke of Athol* when that ship was unfortunately blown up in Madras Road, 50 pagodas each, and ordered them a passage on the first Company's ship which should sail for Bengal, in consideration of the peculiar hardships and sufferings of their situation we direct that Messrs. Weldon and Smith be excused the repayment of the sum so advanced to each of them, and should they have entered into obligations for that purpose that the same be immediately cancelled.

12. The following persons have been appointed cadets for your

Presidency on the lists of the season of 1782, in the room and with the rank of others undermentioned, viz.

*For the infantry*

Benjamin Mee.....vice Richard Mitford

*For the artillery*

James Alexander.....vice John Williams

13. Mr. George Gordon, a cadet for your Presidency of the season 1782, is permitted to proceed to his appointment on board one of His Majesty's ships.

14. Mr. Hugh Mackay is permitted to return to India to settle his affairs.

15. The following persons have our license to proceed to and remain in the East Indies under free mariners' indentures, viz., Charles Carter, Thomas Crawley, John Spriggs, John Meares, James Buck.

16. We have also permitted Lieutenant Richard Bruere, of His Majesty's Navy, who is in India, to remain there two years as a free mariner on his entering into the usual covenants.

17. We have received a petition from Donald Cuming at Fort St. George for permission to proceed to and remain in Bengal with some employ in the Company's service; we have resolved not to comply therewith, and as Mr. Cuming has not our license to remain in India, we direct, in case he should be at your Presidency, that you cause him to return to England by the first opportunity.

18. Mr. John Smart, miniature painter, and Messrs. Ozias Humphrey and Francis Wheatley, portrait painters, have our leave to proceed to India to practise in their respective professions.

19. The intention of the orders contained in our letters to you, dated the 27th of May 1779 and the 15th of January 1783, respecting charts, plans etc., was that the Company should have in England copies of every thing relative to the geography or navigation of India that could be obtained or had been laid down from surveys made at the Company's expence, that we might have all the information possible before us, and that those materials should be secured against any accident which might deprive the Company of information obtained at so much expence; the informations to be had from printed books did not come within our view, nor did we mean to put a stop to the laudable pursuits after knowledge of Captain Call or any other of our servants abroad, but no object of that or any kind must be admitted as an excuse for neglecting or postponing to send to us copies of all maps, charts, plans, surveys, routes, journals, or other nautical or geographical information not already published. The loss of the *Diligent's* log book demonstrates the propriety of this order, could any testimony be wanting. To facilitate the opera-

tion of making copies of the various maps etc., we purposely sent oil paper with which any person could have traced them; we want exact and not finely finished copies, and the surveyor had nothing incumbent on him but to see that the copies were done with accuracy. We therefore again repeat our directions that copies of all maps, charts, plans, surveys, journals, routes or other nautical and geographical information, not already published, be sent to us forthwith; and that you order a catalogue of all mss. of this nature, in possession of the surveyor or other officers, to be sent to us in triplicate by the earliest conveyances.

20. By the above we do not mean any military plans which may be deemed improper to trust to precarious conveyances.

21. On the 30th of July our Secretary wrote to Mr. William Digges Latouche, Resident at Bussora, acquainting him that the definitive treaty with the States General of the United Provinces was signed the 20th of May last, and that the ratifications thereof were exchanged on that day, and desiring him to communicate the same to the several Presidencies in India; we now transmit you copies of His Majesty's proclamation of that event.

22. In reply to your General Letter dated the 23rd of October 1783 respecting the rank of several cadets who had arrived at your Presidency and produced certificates of their appointments, and of whom no notice had been taken in the lists of cadets which you had received, we transmit lists of the cadets which were appointed for your Presidency in the seasons of 1779, 1780, 1781 and 1782, and direct that they do rank in our army agreeably to the rank which is assigned to them respectively in the said lists.

23. For your further information we transmit a copy of the list of cadets, referred to in your abovementioned letter, against whose names we have expressed the rank assigned to them respectively.

24. We observe with great surprize by your General Letter dated the 9th February last that you had thought proper to make it a standing rule that all servants of the Company appointed to reversionary stations in the Board of Trade should be allowed to draw the salaries which they would be entitled to were they members of that Board until you should receive our commands upon the subject; we cannot avoid expressing our disapprobation of the resolution in question, by which we should be subjected to a considerable and indefinite expense, and we therefore direct that the standing rule beforementioned be annulled immediately upon receipt of this letter, and that persons appointed to reversionary stations in the Board of Trade be paid the salary and allowances of a junior merchant only.

25. It is our further pleasure that all allowances granted to Mr. Bateman or any other person, in consequence of the rule established



by you, as before stated, do forthwith cease and determine upon the arrival of this our order at Fort William; and we cannot omit adverting to the impropriety, which occurs in this case, of grounding a general order upon the particular instance of Mr. Bateman. From a regard to the peculiar circumstances of distress attending his case we have not ordered a reimbursement to be made of the sums he may have received in consequence of this order; if it had not been for this consideration we should certainly, in that and every other way, have expressed our highest disapprobation of a proceeding so contrary to the general spirit of our orders, and so inconsistent with that economy essentially necessary for the very existence of our Government in India.

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26. We cannot but express our displeasure at the careless and incorrect manner in which your consultations are written. In the proceedings of the General Department for 1782 and 1783, there are many material omissions, blanks being left for papers on which you have passed resolutions. Had you adhered to our orders of the 23rd December 1778, that the consultations be fairly copied and examined before they are signed, the omissions of which we complain would have been avoided. We now repeat those orders, and direct that they be observed in future.

27. We have not received any of your proceedings as a Board of Inspection of later date than the 6th of November 1780. We are at a loss for your reasons for withholding those proceedings, and as we labor under the utmost inconvenience in consequence thereof we cannot but express our displeasure thereat. And we hereby direct that your proceedings in every department, to the latest period possible, be sent by each dispatch, and that compleat sets be forwarded so soon as possible after the conclusion of the year.

28. We are likewise obliged to complain of not having received your Persian correspondence to a later period than the end of the year 1781; such neglect must be avoided in future, and the said correspondence transmitted as directed in the preceding paragraph.

29. As you have on several occasions neglected to send indexes with the broken sets of your consultations we hereby repeat our orders for sending a copious index with every such broken set of your proceedings, as well as a complete index to the annual set of your consultations.

30. We were preparing to give our decision upon the point of authority between your Government and the Presidency of Fort St. George, respecting the orders issued by you for the purpose of annulling the assignment, but the late Act of Parliament having clearly defined your respective powers for the time to come we hold it unnecessary to come to any determination on questions which have no longer any existence, and our opinions on which could afford you no light for your future conduct.

31. But we find it our indispensable duty to express to you the most positive direction that in the exercise of the powers entrusted to you by that Act you avoid taking any step which may tend to diminish the weight of our subordinate governments with relation to the powers of India particularly connected with them.

32. We can in no degree think it right that you should appoint agents to act for your Government independently of our other settlements at the Court of any of the princes so connected with them; or that you should receive agents from those powers separately addressed to you, still less should we think such a measure justifiable if the same person should be allowed by you to act in both capacities, and more especially if he should be chosen from among the inferior servants of that Government whose dignity would thus be lessened.

33. Whatever representations from the native powers so connected with our subordinate settlements, whatever propositions for future arrangements, and above all whatever complaints against the conduct of our Governments in those settlements are made to you, must be transmitted through those Governments alone; with them you are immediately to communicate on those subjects, and whatever steps you take in consequence you are to pay every attention to the honor and dignity of our servants placed by us in high situations. This is a line of conduct due to them, as well from the character which they derive from us as from the indispensable necessity of holding high in the eyes of the different powers of India the weight and authority of every branch of the British Government.

34. In the 39th section of the beforementioned Act of Parliament provision is made for redressing any grievances which may exist amongst the rajahs, zemindars, polygars, talookdars, and other native landholders within the British territories in India; and we think it proper, by this earliest opportunity, to inform you that those provisions will, as they merit, obtain our very early attention and we will then transmit to you at large our sentiments on that subject.

35. And as we are required within 14 days after the commencement of every session of Parliament to lay before the two houses of Parliament a perfect list of all offices, places and emoluments in the civil and military establishments of the Company in the East Indies, with the salaries or pay and emoluments belonging thereto, we direct that lists, conformable to the above, be regularly transmitted to us from our several settlements.

36. We have put on board the *Fox* 1000 ounces of foreign silver for the use of that vessel in case she should be obliged to put into any foreign ports for refreshments or repairs during the voyage, for which Captain Corner is to account on his arrival in India.

37. Mr. Edward Maxwell, Counsellor at Law, who carried out the

intelligence of the peace to India so opportunely, has our permission to remain in India to practise in his profession; and by the *Fox* we transmit covenants to be executed by Mr. Maxwell, which must be returned to us by the first opportunity.

38. The General Court of Proprietors on the 7th November 1783 came to the following resolution, viz.,

“Resolved that it is the opinion of this Court, that Warren Hastings Esqr., Governor General of Bengal, and the other Members of the Supreme Council have displayed uncommon zeal, ability, and exertion in the management of the affairs of the East India Company during the late hostilities in India, particularly in finding resources for supporting the war in the Carnatic under so many pressing difficulties when that country was in danger of being lost, through the successful irruption of Hyder Ally Cawn, aided by the powerful assistance of the French, and also in concluding the late treaty of peace with the Marattas at a period so critical, and on terms so honorable and advantageous to the permanent interests of the Company.”

“Resolved therefore that the thanks of this Court be given to Warren Hastings Esqr., Governor General, and the other Members of the Supreme Council, for the above specified great and distinguished services, and further that this Court doth request the said Warren Hastings Esqr., Governor General, not to resign the station he now holds, until the tranquility of our possessions in India shall be restored, and the arrangements necessary upon the re-establishment of peace shall have taken place.”

39. It was the wish of the Court of Directors to have transmitted immediately to Bengal these grateful acknowledgements of their constituents to men who had served them so essentially, but the Directors were restrained by a letter from His Majesty's Secretary of State on the ground that the affairs of the East India Company were to be laid before Parliament. As in consequence of the late Act of Parliament, this restriction is no longer in force we now think it our duty to transmit to you the above resolution by the first dispatch.

40. We have appointed Lieutenant General Robert Sloper Commander in Chief of the Company's forces in the East Indies.

41. We have great satisfaction in communicating to you the following resolutions, which we came to on the 20th of October, viz.,

“As peace and tranquility are now perfectly established throughout India, and this Court being sensible that this happy event has been principally owing to the very able and spirited exertions of our Governor General, and of our Supreme Council.”

“Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Court be conveyed

to Warren Hastings Esquire for his firm, unwearied, and successful endeavors in procuring the late peace with the several powers in India."

"Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Court be conveyed to the Supreme Council, for the assistance they have given in restoring our affairs in India to the happy situation of tranquility."

"Resolved unanimously that our Governor General and Council be directed to inform Mr. David Anderson that this Court entertain a proper sense of his masterly conduct in negotiating with the Maratta powers; and that they shall rank him among those who may have claim to their favor."

42. Having received information that Mr. Thomas Wilkinson, a factor of the Bombay establishment, and Mr. Charles Boddam, a writer of the Bengal establishment, are desirous of exchanging their respective ranks and situations with each other, we have removed Mr. Wilkinson to Bengal in the room and with the rank of Mr. Boddam, and it is our order that you acquaint Mr. Boddam therewith, should he be at your Presidency, and direct him to proceed to the rank we have assigned him at Bombay.

43. We transmit by the *Fox* packet, the vessel whereon General Sloper embarks, copy of the commission we have granted him as Commander in Chief of the Company's forces in the East Indies and one of the Council at Fort William in Bengal.

44. We have permitted General Sloper to take with him, on board the *Fox* packet, Captain Charles Merry and Ensign Granby Sloper as his *aids de camp*, also Edward Whitewell Esqr. as his secretary, and the Reverend William Goddard as his chaplain. A list of the General's family proceeding with him is enclosed.

45. We have received a letter from the Right Honorable Lord Sydney, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, a copy whereof is enclosed, acquainting us that Lieutenant General Sloper will be furnished with a letter of service from the King, which will give effect and operation to his commission of lieutenant general, and entitle him to exercise the command appertaining to that rank among His Majesty's troops in the East Indies, so long *only* as he shall continue in the service of the Company, and that when he shall cease to be in that employment his right of commanding, or serving with His Majesty's forces in the East Indies, shall likewise determine, and that upon such event, or in case of his death or absence from India, the particular command of the King's forces devolves of course on the next senior officer thereof, who may at the time be serving in India by His Majesty's order.

46. We are further informed, by the said letter, that Lieutenant General Sloper will also be invested with powers to assemble a court martial, as soon as conveniently may be after his arrival within the Presidency of Fort St. George for the tryal of Major General Sir John



Burgoyne upon the charges which have been exhibited against him, and that he will also be empowered to try any other officers against whom any charges may have been brought for crimes committed before his arrival in India.

47. Lord Sydney's letter likewise mentions that as the number of His Majesty's troops by the return of the five battalions which are now supposed to be embarked, and on their passage to Europe, will be very considerably diminished it seems expedient that the King's three major generals, now serving in India, should be ordered to return home, and that upon that subject His Majesty's commands will be taken before the departure of General Sloper.

48. His Lordship's letter concludes with hoping that these arrangements will tend, in some degree, to put a stop to the consequences of the late dissensions upon the coast of Coromandel; and that as the King's servants intend to resume the consideration of the military establishments in India without delay His Lordship has some reason to believe that before the next ship, after the packet, shall be ready to depart for our settlements such further regulations will be agreed upon as may prevent all future discontents; and that the respective ranks of the King's and Company's officers will be so settled that neither party may have reason to complain of irregular and unusual promotions.

49. Having received a letter from the Select Committee at Bombay, dated the 27th June last, representing the magnitude of their bonded debt, and the distresses suffered by those concerned therein from the inability of that Presidency to discharge any part of either principal or interest thereon, and considering how much the credit of the Company and the ease of individuals may suffer from so distressed a situation, we do hereby direct, in the most positive manner, that you exert yourselves in remitting annually to that Presidency whatever can be spared towards the payment of the interest on their bonded debt.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/L. Sullivan/John Manship/Jn. Woodhouse/  
W. Bensley / Jno. Michie / George  
Tatem/Paul Le Mesurier/John Motteux/  
Joseph Sparkes/Edmd. Boehm/  
F. Baring / Hugh Inglis / Stephen  
Lushington/R. Hall/John Hunter/  
J. Smith/Thos. Parry.

London,  
the 9th December 1784.

Copy

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 1.

Received per *Fox* packet 13th June '85.



## LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1784

*Peaceful relations must be maintained with Indian powers—Browne, Resident at Delhi, censured—liquidation of the Nawab of Arcot's debt—assistance to General Sloper for removing abuses in the army.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have received a letter from our Governor General dated Lucknow 30th April 1784, with a postscript dated 13th May.
2. It is our intention to give the earliest consideration to the several important points which form the subject of this letter, but as we are anxious not to delay the sailing of the vessel which carries these dispatches we shall, in the present moment, content ourselves with expressing to you our fixed and unalterable determination to abide by the just and pacific system respecting the native princes of India which the late Act of Parliament has pointed out to us, acquainting you that any deviation from it, in the conduct of our servants, will not fail to incur our highest displeasure.
3. We find it necessary to require you to transmit to us a distinct account of the proceedings of our Governor General at Lucknow, and also the whole correspondence between the Governor General and Major Brown<sup>1</sup> from the time of the first appointment of the latter to reside at the court of Delhi down to the latest period.
4. We do not think proper, at present, to decide ultimately on the transactions relative to this appointment, but if it shall appear to us, on a view of the whole correspondence, that Major Browne has entered into any engagements with the court of Delhi without sufficient authority for that purpose it is our determination to dismiss him from our service for so manifest a breach of his duty, and we direct you to notify this to him in order that he may furnish us with such materials as he shall judge necessary for his vindication. And we particularly guard you, in the meantime, against entering into any connection with that court which may eventually engage us to afford military assistance to the King Shah Allum.
5. We cannot close this subject without expressing the great satisfaction we feel at the payment of so large a share of the Nabob's debt, stated to be made without adding to the distresses of those provinces, and we trust that such wise and temperate regulations will be adopted by our Governor General as may ensure a proper and speedy liquidation of the whole with a due attention to the above important consideration.

6. The Right Hon'ble the Secretary at War has communicated to us the copy of a letter which, by His Majesty's commands, he has written to Lieutenant General Sloper recommending, to his particular attention, the means of preserving the health of His Majesty's forces, and the management of the general and regimental hospitals, directing him to make every enquiry in his power into the causes of the sickness and consequent mortality, which for sometime past have prevailed among His Majesty's troops in India, and to do his utmost to put an end to the abuses which have arisen from an excessive use of spirituous liquors among the soldiery and the profits thereby resulting to the officers commanding at certain stations.

7. In order to second His Majesty's most gracious intentions herein, and as the subject appears of equal importance to the Company's forces, we hereby direct that you give every aid and assistance to Lieutenant General Sloper, and co-operate with him in his endeavours to suppress the abuses that, there is too much reason to think, have prevailed both in the King's and Company's service, as well in the field and garrison as in the general and regimental hospitals, to the subversion of good discipline among the troops and, in too many instances, to the destruction of the health of the soldiery.

8. For your further information herein we enclose you a copy of the beforementioned letter, and of that from the Secretary at War to our Chairman and Deputy Chairman which accompanied it.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/L.  
Sullivan/J. Manship/John Wood-  
house/Jno. Michie/John Motteux/  
George Tatem/Edm. Boehm/John  
Hunter/Thos. Parry/W. Bensley/  
Paul Le Mesurier/Hugh Inglis/F.  
Baring/R. Hall/Step. Lushington.

London,  
the 10th December 1784.

Copy  
Company's General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 27.

38

LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1785

*Measures to prevent forgeries of bills of exchange.*

Gentlemen,

[1] I have received the commands of the Court of Directors to acquaint you that in order to prevent as much as possible any

future forgeries of bills of exchange or certificates, by which the Company have recently suffered, they have caused a new and particular sort of paper to be manufactured for the sole purpose of drawing bills of exchange and certificates, bearing the name of East India Company, as also James Whatman, maker, in water marks, each sheet being sufficient to contain six bills or certificates; of this paper a box containing 2,000 sets, directed to the Governor General only, is sent on the ship *Montagu* under the special care of Captain Thomas Brettell, the commander, who will himself see it safely delivered.

[2] And the Court direct that the paper, beforementioned, be delivered into the custody of the officer whom the Governor General and Council shall think most proper, to be by him issued for the purpose of drawing bills and certificates only, and that such person or persons to whom the same shall be issued, for the beforementioned purposes, shall account to the proper officer, who shall have the care of such paper, for the use of such quantity as he may receive, which quantity is only to be delivered from time to time in exact conformity to the number of bills and certificates to be drawn at any one period, and that if any of the said paper should be rendered useless by accident the same must be returned to the officer by whom it was issued, previous to any other being delivered in lieu thereof; and it is the Court's positive order that no excuse be admitted for the loss of any of the paper beforementioned from any person who may have been in possession thereof.

I am very respectfully,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

East India House,  
London the 11th January 1785.

Thos. Morton,  
Secretary.

The Hon'ble the Governor General and Council at  
Fort William in Bengal.

## LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1785

*Measures to protect stationery on way to India—Captain William Kirkpatrick's new Hindi grammar—Dalling appointed Commander in Chief of Madras.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letters to you were dated the 9th and 10th of December

last, and transmitted in triplicate by the *Fox* packet, His Majesty's sloop *Cygnet* and the ship *Francis*.

2. By the ship *Earl of Oxford* we received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letter dated 15th March 1784.

Secret Letter dated the same day.

Revenue Letter dated the 13th March 1784.

Revenue Law Letter dated the same day.

Letter in the Foreign Department dated the 16th March 1784.

Letter from the Board of Trade dated the 15th March 1784.

3. We shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts of those advices as may appear to demand our attention.

4. In addition to the ships mentioned in our letter of the 9th ultimo we have entertained the undermentioned upon the same terms as the others, and consigned them to China direct, viz.,

	Tons		
<i>Lascelles</i> ...	758	Captain	Thomas Wakefield
<i>General Elliot</i>	755	Do.	Robert Drummond
<i>Atlas</i> ...	758	Do.	Allen Cooper
<i>Barwell</i> ...	755	Do.	Robert Carr
<i>Busbridge</i> ...	755	Do.	John Robertson

5. We have directed the commanders of the ships *Houghton*, *Osterley*, *Montagu*, *Dublin* and *Duke of Montrose* to call at Madeira to receive 400 pipes of wine for the use of our Presidencies of Bengal, Fort St. George and Bombay, 180 whereof are intended for your Presidency, the invoices and bills of lading of which you will receive from our correspondents at that island, and you must advise us of the quality and leakage thereof.

6. We have also directed Messrs. Scott, Pringle & Co. to furnish our supracargos at Canton with six pipes of Madeira wine.

7. The consignments to our several Presidencies in India and to China, this season, will principally consist of the following particulars, viz.,

#### For Bengal

Cloth 660 bales, long ells 50 bales, broad long ells 40 bales of 10 pieces each, copper 400 tons including  $22\frac{1}{2}$  tons of copper hoops for powder barrels, iron 30 tons, steel 10 tons.

#### For Fort St. George

Cloth 593 bales, long ells 10 bales, copper 230 tons.

## For Bombay

Cloth 594 bales, long ells 90 bales, broad long ells 20 bales of 10 pieces each, copper 300 tons, also 50 tons for sheathing ships, lead 50 tons, iron 60 tons, steel 15 tons, small arms 6,500 musquets.

## For the Bussora market

Cloth 70 bales, long ells 29 bales.

## For Fort Marlborough

10 tons of fine iron, small arms 250 musquets.

## For China

Cloth 1078 bales, long ells 1757 bales, camblets 48 bales and lead 900 tons.

8. A clause is inserted in the charterparties of our freighted ships of this season (page 4) respecting the lading of the ships in India and China, to which we require your particular attention in the distribution of cargos and assortments of goods for the several ships, that each ship may have her charterparty tonnage laden on board or at least tendered to her, so that in case she is not able, or the commander shall refuse to receive it, the owners may not have any good ground to plead an exemption from payment of freight for the deficiency, on account of any failure on the part of the Company.

9. Having made an alteration in the privilege allowed to the commanders and officers of our ships in the article of piece goods, of which the commanders now going out are duly informed by a special clause in their instructions, we transmit copies of our resolution thereupon, and direct that you communicate the same to the commanders and officers of any of our ships in India who may not have been apprized thereof, in order that they may conform thereto.

10. An application having been made to us by the Commissioners of the Navy to receive such of His Majesty's naval stores as may be remaining in India and are absolutely fit and proper for the Company's service, and as it does not appear to us that there can be any objection to our complying therewith, we direct you to receive such stores, upon a fair valuation thereof being made by such officers as you shall think proper to appoint for that purpose, and those employed by the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships in India.

11. The following persons have obtained our permission to proceed to India under free mariners indentures, viz., John Canning, William Douglas, George Saunders, Alexander Black, James Gray, William Tipping, Henry Noble, George Allen, Samuel Weller, Thomas Warham,



Walter Armstrong, John Guise, William Rogers, Francis Hicks, David Ross, James Morrison, William Manwaring, James Wyard Gooch, Nicholas Bodkin, Henry Lawrie and Charles Moodie.

12. We have also permitted Mr. Lawrence Bowden, who brought home the *Fortitude* packet, to return to India in his former situation as a free mariner.

13. It having been in contemplation, for some time past, to adopt some method for the better security of the Company's stationary sent to India against wet and damp, we have ordered, by way of experiment, one half of the stationary for the Presidencies of Bengal, Fort St. George and Bombay to be packed in thin deal cases covered with copper sheets of 1 lb to the foot square and so secured as to exclude all wet and damp, and these cases to be again enclosed in other cases of the usual thickness.

14. Upon the delivery in India of those cases of stationary which are covered with copper, the stationary is to be immediately unpacked and the copper removed from the cases, and received into the import warehouses upon the company's account, and sold, at a future time, with the other manufactured copper.

15. In order to prevent, as much as possible, any future forgeries of bills of exchange or certificates, by which the Company have recently suffered, we have caused a new and particular sort of paper to be manufactured for the purpose of drawing bills of exchange and certificates only, bearing the name of East India Company, as also *James Whatman, maker*, in water marks, each sheet being sufficient to contain six bills or certificates; of this paper we send on each of the ships *Francis, Dublin, Rodney* and *Montagu*, a box containing 2,000 sets, directed to the Governor General only under the special care of the commander, who will himself see it safely delivered, and we direct that the paper before-mentioned be delivered into the custody of the officer whom the Governor General and Council shall think most proper, to be by him issued for the purpose of drawing bills and certificates only, and that such person or persons to whom the same shall be issued, for the beforementioned purposes, shall account to the proper officer, who shall have the care of such paper, for the use of such quantity as he may receive, which quantity shall only be delivered, from time to time, in exact conformity to the number of bills and certificates to be drawn at any one period; and should any of the said paper be rendered useless by accident the same shall be returned to the officer by whom it was issued previous to any other being delivered in lieu thereof, nor must any excuse be admitted for the loss of any of the paper beforementioned from any person who may have been in possession thereof.

16. Having this season determined to permit necessaries to be sent to our servants and other persons in India we transmit a copy of our said resolution for their information and guidance.

17. The following gentlemen are appointed our Council of Supracargos at Canton for managing the Company's affairs in China this season, viz., Messrs. William Henry Pigou, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Browne, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce, Charles Edward Pigou, Henry Lane, David Lance, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Kuyck Van Mierop, William Fitzhugh, Richard Hall, Samuel Peach and Hugh Parkin.

18. We have permitted Messrs. Matthew Dawson and John Fydell to return to their rank on our civil establishment at your Presidency.

19. Mr. James Edmiston, whom we appointed a writer for your Presidency of the season of 1782, has our permission to proceed to his duty, on the ship *Francis*, without prejudice to his rank.

20. The undermentioned military officers have obtained our leave to return to their duty on our establishment at your Presidency without prejudice to their rank, viz., Lieutenant Colonel Joseph William Crabb, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Stewart, Major James Law, Captain George Mence, Captain William Kirkpatrick, Captain Robert Kennan and Lieutenant Robert Morris.

21. Captain William Kirkpatrick having signified to us that he has prepared a new grammar of the Hindoo dialect which he means to publish in Bengal, and having represented that it is a work calculated for the benefit of our servants in India, we in conformity to his request recommend the same to your protection should it be found deserving of it, and direct that you promote its success by such countenance as you shall judge due to its utility.

22. We have permitted Captain Kirkpatrick to take Joseph Cooper junior, a printer, with him to Bengal for the purpose of completing the publication of the said grammar.

23. We have permitted Mr. Daniel Campbell to return to his station of Surgeon General at your Presidency.

24. The Reverend John Owen has our permission to proceed to Bengal; and we direct that he do succeed as youngest chaplain on your establishment, upon the first vacancy.

25. We have permitted Mr. Ross Jennings to proceed to Bengal, and remain there three years, for the purpose of settling the affairs of Mr. John Bassett deceased.

26. Mr. Thomas Lyons has obtained the like permission to settle his own affairs.

27. We have permitted Thomas Daniel to proceed to Bengal to follow his profession of an engraver, and to take his nephew with him as his assistant.

28. The friends of Mr. Schultz, a merchant in Bengal, having acquainted us that he is desirous of returning to Europe we direct that you permit him to take passage on board one of the Company's ships.

29. We have appointed Lieutenant General Sir John Dalling, Baronet, Commander in Chief of the Company's forces on the coast of Coromandel. He took passage on the *Britannia*, which ship sailed from Portsmouth on the 29th of December last. A copy of his commission is enclosed.

30. Herewith you will also receive a copy of the commission appointing the Right Honorable Lord Macartney to be President and Governor and the Commander in Chief of the Company's forces on the coast of Coromandel for the time being, together with Alexander Davidson and James Daniel Esqrs. to be the Council at Fort St. George, also a copy of the commission which we have granted to Lord Macartney as Governor and Commander in Chief of the garrison of Fort St. George and town of Madraspatnam.

31. Having granted permission to Mr. Richard Tilghman to return to his station on our civil establishment at your Presidency on the express condition of his proceeding on one of the ships of last season, we have now, in consequence of his not having availed himself thereof, refused him permission to return to the Company's service.

32. But as Mr. Tilghman formerly practised as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Judicature with our leave, and still remains enrolled as an advocate in that court, we have permitted him to proceed to Bengal, on the ship *Francis*, to resume his profession as a barrister.

33. Captain Henry Harvey of your establishment and Captain Alexander Wynch of the Fort St. George establishment having requested our permission to exchange their respective ranks and situations we have agreed that Captain Harvey be removed to the Fort St. George establishment with a commission of the same date with that held by Captain Wynch at Fort St. George, and to rank next under Captain Cornelius Grant, and that Captain Wynch be removed to your establishment with a commission bearing similar date, and to rank next under Captain Archibald Hooke. Captain Wynch proceeds to his station on the *Deptford*.

34. We have received information that Major John McGowan and Mr. Pellegrin Treves, who last season proceeded overland to their stations at your Presidency, took two women with them, and as they had not our permission so to do we direct that you cause strict enquiry to be made respecting that transaction, and if our information shall appear to be well founded it is our order that you severely reprimand Major McGowan and Mr. Treves in our name for the same.

35. We further direct that you cause the said women to return

to England by the first conveyance after receipt of this letter unless they produce certificates of their being married, and that the expense of their passage be defrayed by Major McGowan and Mr. Treves.

36. The friends of Captain Cuthbert Thornhill who has resided many years in India, and of whom we entertain a very favorable opinion, have applied to us to appoint him to succeed to the post of Master Attendant in Bengal on the death or coming away of Mr. Frederick Doveton, the present Master Attendant there, provided you shall be of opinion that Mr. Bowey, the person appointed by us to succeed to the Master Attendantship, from age and infirmities is rendered incapable of executing the duties of that office; and as we are well satisfied with Captain Thornhill's character and merits we recommend him to you as a proper person for such an office when a vacancy shall happen, and shall be well pleased to find that you have taken the first opportunity of providing for him in a manner suitable to his abilities.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/Jn.  
Woodhouse / J. Manship / George  
Tatem / E. Boehm / J. Smith / W.  
Bensley/Thos. Parry/John Motteux/  
Jas. Moffatt/Jno. Michie/R. Hall/  
Joseph Sparkes.

London,  
the 27th January 1785.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 2.

40

## LETTER DATED 10 MARCH 1785

*Macartney appointed Governor General in succession to Hastings.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our Governor General having, in his letter dated the 20th March 1783, signified his earnest desire that we would nominate a successor to the Government of Bengal, we have appointed the Right Honourable George Lord Macartney to succeed to the Government General of Bengal upon the death, removal or resignation of Warren Hastings Esqr.

2. Our Governor General having, in his letter of the 20th March 1783, signified his earnest desire that we would nominate a successor to the Government of Bengal, we have accordingly appointed Lord Macartney as successor to the Government General, and having taken

into consideration the long, faithful and able services of Warren Hastings Esqr., we have unanimously resolved that he be permitted to resign the Government of Bengal agreeably to his request contained in the above letter.

3. We have not fixed any particular day for his quitting the Government but direct that he take the first convenient opportunity in the ensuing season, commencing in October next, to return to Europe, and as we have instructed Lord Macartney to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Bengal immediately after the departure of Mr. Hastings, we order that the senior in the Supreme Council, on whom the Government is in the interim to devolve, shall lose no time in conveying to Lord Macartney the earliest information of that event.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith / W. Devaynes / L.  
Sullivan / J. Smith / Jno. Woodhouse /  
Jno. Michie / John Manship / W.  
Bensley / Thos. Parry / George Tatem /  
Jas. Moffatt / John Motteux / Hugh  
Inglis / Joseph Sparkes / F. Baring /  
R. Hall.

London,  
the 10th March 1785.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 1.

41

## LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1785

*Edward Raby's case—The Institutes of Timur translated by Major Davy—Danes at Tranquebar to be helped as far as possible—Presidency of Fort Marlborough reduced to a Residency under the Bengal Government—Bencoolen arrack for troops—pepper investment—David Brown and N. Thomas to superintend the education of orphans—commission allowed to President of Board of Trade on corals and diamonds payable by exporters—Colonel Tolly's canal—instructions regarding silk investment—utility of brass cogwheels in silk manufacture—contract with Prinsep for indigo disapproved—orders regarding legacy left to Magdalen Hospital by Omichand—orders regarding apprehended suspension of Lord Macartney, Governor of Fort St. George, by Bengal Government—Lucknow Residency abolished—Court's contribution to the Church proposed to be built in Calcutta—directions for supply of indigo.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since closing our letter of the 27th January last, we have reconsidered the case of Mr. Richard Tilghman, and being satisfied that the bad state of his health was the sole cause of his not proceeding to his



instructions which they shall receive from your Government, and that from that time they are to consider themselves entirely under your management and control.

11. We therefore direct that as soon as possible after receipt hereof you take effectual measures for carrying these our orders into execution and that, for the present, you render the establishment of that Presidency conformably to what it was in 1757, and for your guidance herein we transmit accounts of the establishment at Fort Marlborough in that year.

12. It is our further order that you immediately take measures for the reduction of all the losses and charges of the Fort Marlborough establishment within £27,654 per annum, which was the expence thereof in the year 1757, and we positively direct that the said amount be not exceeded on any account or pretence whatsoever, and as we trust that the revenues and profits of that settlement will not be diminished by this reduction we expect that the Company will derive an advantage of about £34,000 annually therefrom.

13. In consequence of our having reduced the Presidency at Fort Marlborough to a mere Residency we have, in the strongest terms, prohibited our servants there drawing bills of exchange upon the Company. However, whenever from unavoidable circumstances you shall be under the absolute necessity of passing any drafts upon us, we direct that you allow them such a proportion of the amount thereof as shall be consistent with their former indulgence in this respect.

14. As we conceive that great benefit may arise from encouraging the sale of arrack of the produce of Bencoolen at our other settlements and thereby render it unnecessary for us to send dollars for the purchase of pepper we direct that you afford every encouragement in your power to the sale of Bencoolen arrack at your Presidency by causing our troops to be supplied with that spirit instead of Batavia arrack, if you shall be of opinion that no inconvenience can arise therefrom.

15. All your proceedings respecting the Company's affairs at Fort Marlborough must be kept separate from your proceedings concerning your own Government and transmitted to us in duplicate.

16. Herewith you will receive a packet directed to the President and Council at Fort Marlborough containing our orders for reducing that Government to a Residency, which must be forwarded thither by the earliest conveyance.

17. Fully relying on your zeal and attachment to the Company's interest we have no doubt of your carrying these orders into effect and we persuade ourselves that you will render the pepper investment as beneficial as possible. And should any of our servants, either civil or military, attempt to obstruct the execution of these orders we authorize you to suspend them the Company's service.

18. It is with pleasure we observe that the buyers in general have highly commended the cargos we have received from your Presidency by the ships of last season, both in regard to fabrick and assortment; a continuance of attention in the Company's servants to keep up the goods to the fabrick and assortment of those cargos will strongly evince their attachment to the Company's interest, and if any reduction in price can be effected without debasing the quality of the goods it will render the Company essential service.

19. We have permitted Mr. Thomas Henchman to return to his rank in our civil service at your Presidency.

20. We have permitted Messrs. Harry Verelst Darell and Charles Andrew Bruce, whom we appointed writers for your Presidency in the season of 1782, to proceed to their duty on the ship *Dutton* without prejudice to their rank.

21. We have also permitted Messrs. Christopher Roberts and William Towers Smith, who were appointed writers for your Presidency in the same season, to remain in England until next season without prejudice to their rank.

22. We have permitted Mr. Philip Prothero to proceed to Bengal and remain there three years for the purpose of settling the affairs of his deceased brother.

23. We have permitted Messrs. David Brown and N. Thomas with their wives to proceed to Bengal, at their own expence, to superintend the education of the orphans of the officers and soldiers on your establishment in consequence of the plan that has been adopted for the maintenance of the said orphans.

24. The following persons have our permission to proceed to India under free mariners' indenture: Richard Samuel Hassard (abroad), William Parsons, John Wilson, Thomas Stocks, James Phillips, James Hamilton, James Callender, Matthew Lewis, John Carse, Robert Fergusson, William Macintosh, John Molloy, John Pollard, John Rose, Andrew Waddell, John Chalmers, William Hunter.

25. Having omitted to notice to you that on the 2nd of April 1782 we permitted Mr. Francis Kemp to remain in India under free mariners' indentures we now acquaint you therewith.

26. The persons whom we permitted to proceed to India as assistant surgeons, conformably to our resolution which was communicated to you in our letter dated the 16th March 1784, are to succeed in the Company's service in the following order, viz., Doctor George Paton, Mr. John McEvoy, James Meik, Peter Turnbull, William Gardiner, George Ranken, John Corse, John Smith, Richard Pye, John Wood, James Smith, Edward Bright, Gilbert Macleod, John Castairs, Thomas Casement, James Arthur,

39. It has been an object of much concern to us to find that notwithstanding the sums that have been sacrificed and so severely felt by the Company to the perfecting this branch of our investment, the silk produced in Bengal, while [where] labour is infinitely cheaper than in Italy, should leave a considerable loss whilst that from Italy gives a regular profit. We observe however with pleasure the reduction of price you have accomplished in your late purchases of silk and we doubt not a continuance of your exertions to obtain still further reductions as nothing but a moderation therein can induce us to continue large imports of that article. The very great benefit that will result from an increase of consumption, considered as well with a view to the supplying our silk manufacturers with this raw material in abundance on reasonable terms as to the means of remittance from your Presidency without prejudicing the circulation of the country, induces us to extend our orders and to enjoin you, in the most positive manner, to be attentive both to the price and to the quality of what our Board of Trade may purchase in obedience to the orders.

40. We think it necessary to inform you that Parliament in the last session laid an additional duty of 2s 9d on each great pound of 24 ounces of raw silk imported into this country which will in some degree operate to the prejudice of that article. The whole duty now payable thereon is 4s 4d, 80 [*sic*] per pound of 24 ounces.

41. It is our earnest wish to resume our exclusive right in the trade of raw silk as soon as ever the state of our funds shall admit. To this end we wrote you, under date the 16 March last, that as soon as ever you should perceive a prospect of being enabled to restore the accustomed quantity of silk to our investment without drawing bills, lessening the quantity of piece goods or other necessary applications of the territorial revenue you were then to give the necessary notice of 2 years to the individuals engaged in that article and repossess yourselves of the filatures and reassume the exercise of our exclusive right in this article.

42. These orders were given under the presumption that our former orders for giving up this branch to individuals had been carried into execution; but as we find, by the receipt of your subsequent advices, that you had adopted a mean between relinquishing the trade wholly from the Company and giving it wholly to individuals, by resolving to invest 15 lacks in that article on the Company's account, and permitting a participation in individuals to the like amount, we presume the filatures are yet in the Company's possession and that there will be no bar to carrying the above orders into instant effect. If however, upon the receipt of these advices, you should be under any existing engagements with individuals, which will prevent the full execution of these orders without violating the faith of such engagements, we leave you discretionary powers to execute them in such manner as shall, as far as possible, preserve the spirit of them without being injurious to individuals, and we here again repeat that you take the necessary measures, in the most speedy manner possible, to bring this branch of our investment back to its

former channel. We do not mean, by these orders, to establish in the Company a monopoly in the manufacture of raw silk in the Bengal provinces, but merely to resume in proper time the Company's exclusive right of bringing it from thence to this kingdom, and to revoke the privilege formerly given to our servants of sending that article to Europe on their own private account.

43. We have taken into consideration the several paragraphs in the letters from the Board of Trade, under dates the 28th August and 28th November 1781, and 28th November 1782, together with the opinions of the Residents of our several silk factories referred to therein. on the utility of the brass cog wheels and crossing machines, used in the manufacturing of raw silk. In our letter of the 12th July 1782, among other remarks we stated that the brass cog wheels were not intended to perform different variations from the wooden ones as both of them were acting perfectly the same after the Piedmontese principle, which was the only one we could permit to be made use of, and that whether they were made of wood, brass or iron it mattered not provided they were kept in order. We have now to observe that upon an examination of the silk sold at the last sale it appears that keeping the wooden wheels in order has been greatly neglected, and that in working them the reeler from ignorance misplaces the wheels by putting the one of 25 teeth in contact with that of the 35 instead of the 22, whereby the variation so necessary to facilitate the winding the silk at the mill is prevented; these inconveniencies we foresaw in the use of the wooden wheels, and it was so far we considered the brass cog wheels an improvement as by the machine being constructed wholly in one frame it put it out of the power of the natives to commit these mistakes.

44. There is likewise another error which the wood reels are liable to. The small wheels of 22 and 25 teeth are apt to turn round upon their axis, which must be prevented by making the axis square and the hole in the wheel square and firmly rivetted together.

45. In regard to the durability of the brass cog wheels we are persuaded if they are kept properly oiled and cleaned (neither of which we fear has been the case) they would last many years. The steel axis should be oiled *every day* or as often as wanted, and the wheels should be covered from dust and cleaned as often as experience might shew they require.

46. We mean to transmit you, by some future dispatch, a few reels made of superior strength to the last, with the wheels of double thickness and the axis of them to run upon *hardened steel* instead of brass, with holes to receive the oil so as to make the operation of oiling more easy. These improvements, we conceive, will remedy the defects complained of in the former ones and we direct, upon the receipt of them, that you distribute them to the different filatures for trial and that you communicate the result of such trial to us with all convenient expedition.



47. We also direct that a few of the reels that are worn out may be carefully packed and sent home to us by some of the returning ships, noting how long they were in use in order that, by an inspection of their defects, it may be discovered whether any and what means may be adopted to remedy the same.

48. In our list of investment, transmitted you under date the 16th March 1784, we sent you an account of several particulars relative to indigo, which we hope became an object of your serious consideration. We now transmit you a similar account of what was sold in September sale 1784, and shall take the first opportunity, that shall offer after it can be made up, of sending you the like account respecting what was sold the beginning of the month. We direct, that, you immediately on the receipt of this proceed to investigate minutely those accounts and report to us to what cause it is owing that there is so material a difference between your weights and ours. A portion of our loss in this article arises from these differences which we fear has been owing to its being packed in a damp state. There seems also to have been great neglect in taring, as our account of fares exceed yours on the quantity mentioned in that account no less than 7753 lbs. This in so valuable an article as indigo at a prime cost of 7s. per lb. is a most serious object and on which we demand the most full and complete information you may be able to afford.

49. In respect to indigo in general we are of opinion if proper care is taken in the purchases, in regard to its price and quality, it might become a beneficial article of our commerce. Hitherto it seems only to have engaged your attention in a view as a means of remittance; in this however it has failed considerably owing to the high prices at which it has been purchased. In your proceedings respecting the first contract you made with Mr. Princep in 1779 for that article at rupees 5-8 per seer it was expressly held forth "that that price would hereafter lessen in proportion as the quantity demanded, and that saving of the expences after the first outset and heavy charges of necessary implements and buildings are repaid by sales to the planter." After the completion of so extensive a contract of 2000 maunds, in the first instance at rupees 5-8 per seer, we expected to have reaped the benefit of any future purchases at an immediate reduced price, and it was to this we looked for reimbursement for our losses upon the first contract. It was not therefore without displeasure that we found you had in 1782 made a further contract for 1600 maunds at a reduction in price of only 8 annas per seer. This, we informed you in our last investment, was by no means such a reduction as we had a right to expect or such as would render it an article in which we could engage. We have nevertheless the mortification to experience that you have still made a further contract with Mr. Princep to the amount of 3 lacks at the same price. We observe you state this contract to have been given as a compensation or compromise to Mr. Princep for having given up a point in dispute between the Company and him respecting the building at Pultah. We do not mean here to enter into the merits of the dispute between Mr. Princep and the Company: that



Mr. Princep may have deserved well of the Company in giving up the point alluded to we can readily allow, that it was proper in our Board of Trade to bestow upon him some mark of the Company's favor we can easily admit, but that the gratification should have been in a lucrative and extensive contract we can by no means approve; such a transaction does not partake of that mercantile fairness we wish should take place in all our commercial proceedings. Had the reward been specified we should have had an opportunity of judging its proportion to Mr. Princep's services. It is at present indefinite. What have been the Company's losses upon that contract the accompanying account of the sale price will shew; what have been Mr. Princep's gains it is impossible to judge.

50. You will now by having every information respecting the sale of indigo fully before you be perfect masters of the subject. It is our wish to encourage an increase of this article to as great an extent as possible, whenever from its improved quality and reduced price you shall judge there is a fair and reasonable prospect of its yielding a suitable profit.

51. Observing that there frequently happens in the same package indigo of very different qualitys, we have selected a number of samples of the quality most approved, to which you will not fail to pay the strictest attention.

52. We direct that our Board of Trade do caution the several officers under their department to be more attentive, in future, in packing the goods in order that those of one description may not come invoiced under that of another, as such mistakes prove a very great inconvenience and expence to the Company by the goods being returned upon their hands. Repeated complaints have been made by the buyers that several articles of piece goods (blue cloth and chintz in particular) do not run the length and breadth at which they are invoiced. In all such cases the Company are called upon by the buyers either to refund the difference at the sale price between the invoice and the actual lengths and breadths or to receive back the goods, which is a great loss to the Company. As the cause of this complaint originates in the want of attention in the servants of the export warehouse, it is our order that the Board of Trade do express to those officers our great dissatisfaction with such repeated instances of their negligence, assuring them that if after receiving notice hereof they shall be guilty of any misconduct of the like nature they will not fail to experience more severe marks of our displeasure.

53. Several of the managing owners of our freight ships have lately addressed a memorial to us complaining of very great inconvenience arising to the Europe ships in consequence of a rule, ordinance and regulation made by you on the 10th day of March 1783, "for ascertaining and fixing the wages to be paid to the native seafaring men belonging to the port of Calcutta, and for securing the same to the said men, as also for the better providing the ships and vessels navigating to and from the said port with native seafaring men", and ordered by the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 16th June 1783 to be then published.

54. We have duly considered the effect of the said rule, ordinance and regulation, and are not able to gain sufficient information upon the subject to judge whether some regulation may not be proper for the country trade, but in respect to the Europe freighted ships these regulations appear to be productive of additional expense to the owners, trouble to the commanders and officers, a risk of delay to the ships, a danger of not being supplied with good seamen, and no probability of its being productive of any benefit.

55. And His Majesty having on our representation been pleased to disallow the said rule, ordinance and regulation we transmit you, by the ship *Rodney*, the warrant for disallowing the same and attested copys thereof by the ships *Deptford* and *Dutton*.

56. If experience has proved the utility of the said rule, ordinance and regulation in any degree respecting the country trade a new one may be made to extend to such trade only and expressly exclude the Europe ships.

57. Herewith you will receive a copy of the commission appointing Rawson Hart Boddam Esqr. to be President and Governor and the Commander in Chief of the Company's forces for the time being, together with Robert Sparks and Richard Church Esqrs. to be the Council at Bombay; also a copy of the commission appointing Mr. Boddam to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the castle, garrison and town of Bombay.

58. We have permitted our supracargoes to provide such additional resources as their prudence shall suggest to be necessary to enable them to furnish cargos for the great number of ships we have consigned to China this season, and directed if in consequence of the said permission they shall find it expedient to draw upon your Presidency that they fail not to give you timely notice and full information thereof, in order that you may be ready to answer their demands as they arise. It is therefore our positive injunction that you comply with their requisitions to the utmost of your power.

59. Having received an application from the Governors of the Magdalen Hospital requesting our interposition in order that the charity may recover the amount of a legacy left to them by the late Omichund in Bengal, we hereby direct that you receive the same into our treasury at interest, and that such principle and interest be paid, from time to time, to the person or persons who shall be authorised by the Governors of the said charity to receive the same.

60. We are sorry to observe the height to which disputes have arisen between our Governor General and Council and the President and Select Committee at Fort St. George, in so much as to create a suspicion with some whether the former may not have proceeded to the suspension of Lord Macartney, in consequence of his Lordship and the Select Committee declining to comply with the orders of the Bengal

Government for opening a new negotiation with Tippoo Sultan to procure from him a declaration in the treaty respecting the Nabob of Arcot. We do not suppose such an event has taken place, but in order to guard against the possibility thereof, and to remove any doubts which may exist in the minds of any of our servants whether after such a suspension his Lordship ought to be allowed to resume the Government of Madrass or to be admitted to the office of Governor General of Bengal, we think it right hereby to declare it to be our express order that, should such an event have happened (of which our late advices from Fort St. George express some apprehension) in consequence, as before observed, of his Lordship's declining to comply with the orders of the Bengal Government for opening a new negociation with Tippoo Sultan to procure from him a declaration in the treaty respecting the Nabob of Arcot, Lord Macartney be nevertheless allowed to resume the Government of Madras and be admitted to the office of Governor General of Bengal, in like manner as if no such suspension had taken place.

61. Herewith you will receive copy of a letter we have written to Lord Macartney to be delivered to his Lordship in the event of its meeting him on his voyage to Europe, should he have quitted the Government of Madras, in order that he may immediately return to India and resume that Government until he shall receive notice of Mr. Hastings's departure from Fort William; we also enclose you copy of a letter we have written to Fort St. George upon the same subject.

62. John Hollond<sup>1</sup> Esqr., whom we had appointed to succeed Lord Macartney in the Government of Fort St. George, having requested our permission to resign that appointment on account of his ill state of health we have in consequence of Mr. Hollond's resignation appointed Archibald Campbell Esqr. to succeed to the Government of Fort St. George upon the death, removal or resignation of Lord Macartney; he will take his passage early in the month of June next.

63. The resolution you passed on the 31st December 1783 to withdraw the Residency from Lucknow, and to accept the offer made by the Vizier and his minister to give the security of bankers of known credit and responsibility for the payment of the balance due to the Company and the current *kists*, has our approbation; but by this approbation it is by no means our intention either on the one hand to condemn the conduct of our Residents or on the other to preclude ourselves from examining into the complaints exhibited against them by the Vizier and his Minister. We approve likewise of the continuance of an accountant or receiver at Lucknow, so long as any of the Company's troops shall be stationed in the Vizier's dominions, whose business must be confined to the sole purpose of adjusting and keeping the accounts between the Nabob and the Company, receiving the stipulated subsidy for those troops and for appropriating the same in such manner as you shall think proper to direct.

64. A bill of exchange, drawn by you, payable to Messrs. Wheler

Higginson and Company, dated 1st December 1783, for rupees 2240 was in September last presented to us for acceptance, and although several ships have arrived from your Presidency that sailed from thence since the date of the bill we have not received advice thereof, but being satisfied that it was regularly drawn we have accepted the same, and direct that you be particularly careful to prevent the like omission in future.

65. We have attentively considered the proceedings referred to in the 61st paragraph of your Revenue Letter, dated the 28th October 1783, respecting the extension of the term of the lease of mines in Ramgur granted by the Rajah of that district to Mr. Archibald Kier.

66. As you had received our letters of the 25th January and 12th July 1782, which contained our sentiments respecting your grants to Mr. Princep and Mr. Killican, and the reasons on which our express orders for annulling the same were founded, we cannot avoid expressing our surprize that you should confirm to Mr. Kier the extension of the term of his lease, even with the reservation to us of the power of annulling it. We, therefore, totally disapproving of all such grants under any circumstances whatever, direct that you annul the extension of the term of the said lease, and it is our positive order that you discourage, to the utmost of your power, the working of mines which produce ores from which are extracted any of those metals which constitute a very valuable part of the manufactures of this country.

67. We hereby direct that so soon as possible after the receipt hereof you report to us the situation and employment of the several persons under your Presidency to whom free mariners' indentures have been granted.

68. Having considered your advices respecting the church proposed to be built by public contribution in the town of Calcutta and being very desirous of encouraging so laudable a design we have resolved that the sum of £1200 be presented by the Company towards the provision of communion plate, an organ, a clock, bells, and velvet for the pulpit, desk and communion table for the said church.

69. The Governors of the Foundling Hospital having requested our interposition in order that the charity may recover the amount of a legacy left to them by the late Omichund in Bengal, we direct that you receive the same into our treasury at interest and that such principal and interest be paid, from time to time, to the person or persons who shall be authorized by the Governors of the said charity to receive the same.

70. We have unanimously resolved to confirm Brigadier General Lawrence Nilson in his appointment of Commander in Chief of the Company's forces under the Presidency of Bombay. A copy of his commission is enclosed.



71. The following persons whom we appointed cadets for your Presidency of the season of 1782 proceed thither this season without prejudice to their rank, viz.,

*For the infantry*

Benjamin Mee  
Jeremiah Martin Johnson

*For the artillery*

James Alexander

72. The samples of indigo, mentioned in the former part of this letter, you will receive in a box apart they are numbered from 1 to 10 +, and under No. 49 in the packet, you have our remarks and opinions on both the quality and prices which, we apprehend, they may continue to sell for at our sales. We are confident that with care in selecting the qualities which will suit this country it might as we before observed prove beneficial, as the article is generally esteemed and will be more so as it becomes more known, being of a strong good quality. At present there is a prejudice against it from its shape and appearance, which we conceive might be easily remedied by making it in squares of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches like the sample No. 2, which will make it resemble and answer every purpose of that which is made by the French at St. Domingo, which is in high estimation. If in forming or drying the indigo the sand and dirt which adheres to the outside could be avoided, it would render it more pleasing to the eye and more saleable as frequent complaints have been made that the sand injures the mills in grinding it.

73. We have besides the large samples, which are numbered, selected a few particular stones of rich fine copper marked C and fine purple marked P, which are the qualities that will always please and find a ready and good sale. Low qualities, we desire, may be avoided as there is annually a great supply of Carolina indigo at low prices which will answer the same purposes, and which, from the low freight and small expence attending the importation, will always have an advantage over any of the like qualities imported by us.

74. Several officers of His Majesty's regiments having applied to us for the usual allowance for passage money from India and several commanders of the Company's ships having likewise applied to us for the expence of accommodating the King's officers at their table in their passage for Europe, we find, upon enquiry, that no regular sums have yet been settled for the accommodation of King's officers returning home, but that the sum of £80 each has been paid at Fort St. George as an allowance for passage money to officers of different rank, and the sum of £85 to a major, £80 to a captain and £65 to an ensign and lieutenant at Bombay.

75. Having taken this matter into consideration we direct that in future no larger sums than the following be paid to the officers of



His Majesty's regiments for the expence of their passage from India, viz.,

Lieutenant Colonel and Major	...	...	£85
Captain	...	...	£80
All other commission and staff	...	...	£65

which said respective sums are to be paid to the several officers, each according to his rank before his departure from your settlement, and you must not fail from time to time to advise us of such payments.

76. In addition to the ships already advised we have taken up the *Earl Talbot*, burthen 758 tons, Captain Robert Taylor, upon the same terms as the other, and consigned her to Coast and China.

77. We transmit a list of goods to be provided at your Presidency for the ships taken into the Company's service in the season of 1784, to which we require your strict obedience.

78. A mistake having arisen in the rank assigned to Mr. Charles Andrew Bruce, whom we appointed a writer for your Presidency in the season of 1782, we direct that instead of his present rank of 25th he be placed 6th on the list of writers for that year, next below Mr. Thomas Godfrey Lushington.

79. The Reverend Mr. Johnson, one of our chaplains at your Presidency, having requested his friends to provide a person to be sent to Bengal who is properly qualified to officiate as clerk to the church and schoolmaster of a charity school there, and as we have received a very favorable character of Mr. Robert Hollier we have permitted him to proceed thither accordingly. It is not however our intention that Mr. Hollier should be appointed to the employment of clerk to the church on his arrival if the person holding that appointment at that period shall have been found capable, but in such case Mr. Hollier do succeed thereto on the first vacancy. We have permitted Mr. Hollier to take his wife, and have provided them with a passage on the ship *Dutton*.

80. In our letter of the 28th January 1784, we recommended it to you to consider whether the transferring the Bombay bond debt to your Presidency, and engrafting it upon your own bond debt, might not be more consistent with the general interest than leaving it at Bombay, and directed you, in the meantime, to afford that Presidency every assistance, in your power, to enable them to provide for the regular payment of the interest thereon. In our letter of the 9th December following we acquainted you with the distresses experienced by those who were concerned in that debt; and upon considering how much the credit of the Company and the case of individuals might suffer thereby we, in the most positive manner, directed you to exert yourselves in remitting annually to Bombay whatever could be spared towards the payment of the interest on the bond debt of that Presidency.

81. In consequence of the pressing applications from such of the **Bombay** creditors as are now in England that we would adopt some

final regulation for the relief of their distresses, we have taken this subject again into our most serious consideration, and are of opinion that these claimants are entitled to equal attention with the bond holders at our other Presidencies.

82. But as we wish to avail ourselves of your opinion, in consequence of our letter of the 21st January 1784, as to the expediency of consolidating the Bombay debt with the debts at your Presidency, and how far the Company's credit and interest in India might be affected thereby, before we decide on what measures ought finally to be adopted towards the liquidation of the Bombay bond debt, we do positively direct you to furnish that Presidency with the means of providing for the regular payment of the interest thereon, at the same rate of interest and in the same proportion as you may make provision for the payment of the interest on the bond debt of your Presidency, without the smallest degree of partiality, and should the interest on your bond debt be reduced at any future period, the interest on the Bombay debt is to suffer an equal reduction.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith / W. Devaynes / L.  
Sullivan/John Motteux/W. Bensley/  
Thos. Parry/F. Baring/John Man-  
ship/Jno. Woodhouse/Jno. Michie/  
George Tatem / J. Smith / Joseph  
Sparkes/Jas. Moffatt/Paul Le Mesu-  
rier/Hugh Inglis/E. Boehm/R. Hall/  
Step. Lushington / John Hunter /  
W. Mills.

London,  
the 11th April 1785.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 1.

### ENCLOSURE

*(Vide paragraph 61)*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort St. George.

1. We the Court of Directors of the East India Company do hereby order and direct that immediately on the receipt of this letter which will be delivered to you by Lord Macartney you do require the person who may be the Governor of Fort St. George to resign the charge of the same to his Lordship, which it is our order should be held by his Lordship until his departure for Bengal to take the Government General upon the death, removal or resignation of Warren Hastings Esqr.

2. We are sorry to observe the height to which disputes have arisen between our Governor General and Council and the President and Select Committee at Fort St. George, in so much as to create a suspicion with some whether the former may not have proceeded to the suspension of Lord Macartney, in consequence of his Lordship and the Select Committee's declining to comply with the orders of the Bengal Government for opening a new negotiation with Tippoo Sultan to procure from him a declaration in the treaty respecting the Nabob of Arcot; we do not suppose such an event has taken place, but in order to guard against the possibility thereof, and to remove any doubts which may exist in the minds of any of our servants whether after such a suspension his Lordship ought to be allowed to resume the Government of Madras or to be admitted to the office of Governor General of Bengal, we think it right hereby to declare it to be our express order that should such an event have happened (of which our late advices from Fort St. George express some apprehension) in consequence of as before observed, of his Lordship's declining to comply with the orders of the Bengal Government for opening a new negotiation with Tippoo Sultan to procure from him a declaration in the treaty respecting the Nabob of Arcot, Lord Macartney be nevertheless allowed to resume the Government of Madras, and be admitted to the office of Governor General of Bengal in like manner as if no such suspension had taken place.

We are,  
Your loving friends,

Nathl. Smith/W. Devaynes/John  
Hunter / John Motteux / George  
Tatem / J. Manship / W. Bensley /  
Jas. Moffatt/Jno. Michie/E. Boehm/  
Hugh Inglis / Saml. Smith Junr. /  
J. Smith/John Woodhouse/Joseph  
Sparkes/F. Baring/Rd. Hall.

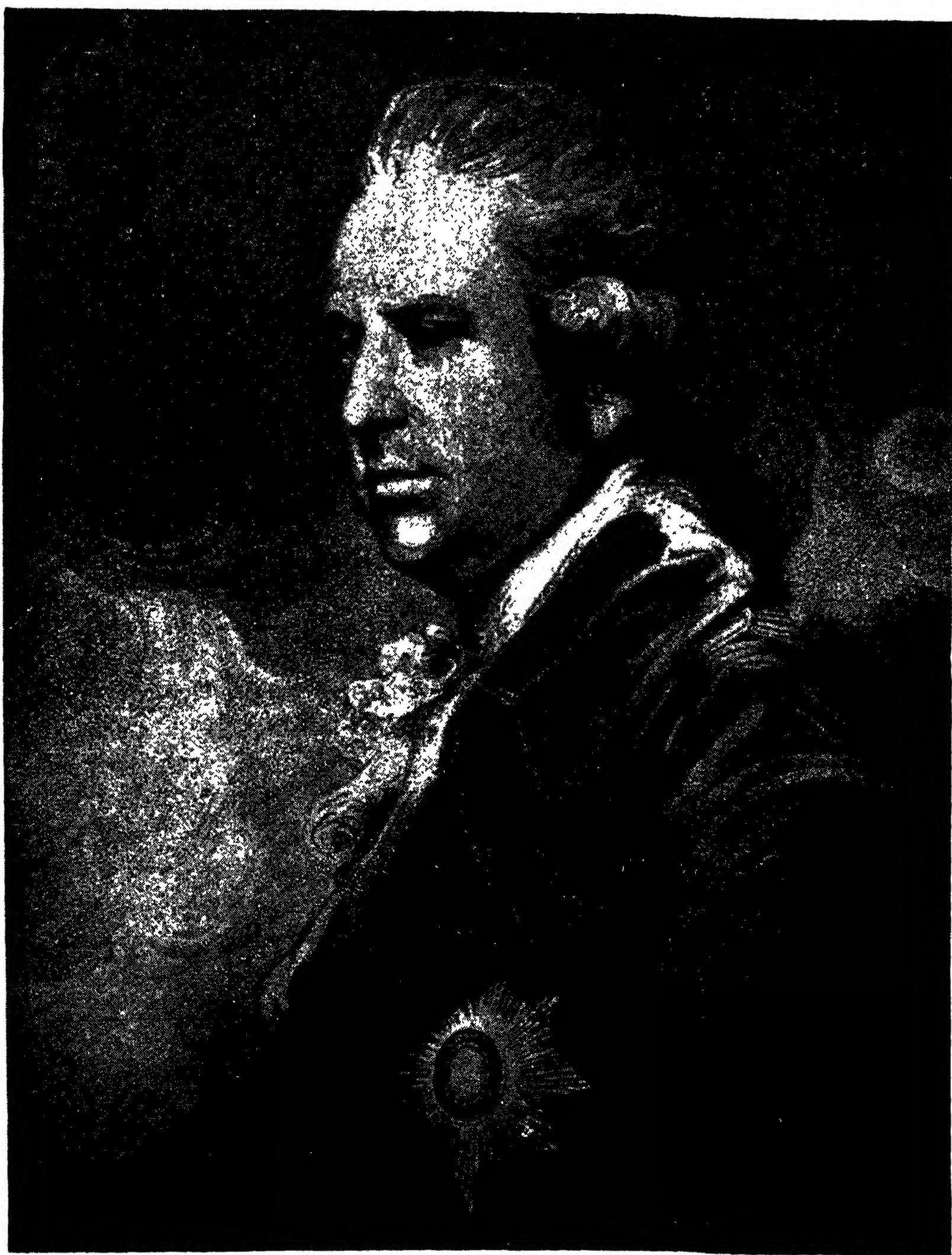
London,  
the 23rd March 1785.

## LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1785

*The Company loaded with debts—retrenchment ordered in all departments—Board of Customs to be abolished—immediate discharge of army arrears.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the late Act of Parliament for regulating the Company's affairs in India we are directed to take into our immediate consideration the respective establishments civil, and military, of our several Presidencies



Lord Macartney





and settlements in India, and to give such orders as the case will admit for every practicable retrenchment and reduction in the same.

2. A compliance with the directions of the statute to the full extent of the provisions of the above recited clause must require a very extensive and laborious investigation in order to determine upon permanent principles the various establishments of the Company in their different settlements in India. We are now engaged in this investigation and shall, without intermission, continue in it till we are thereby enabled to convey to you our final directions. But when we consider the present distressed situation of the Company's affairs, the great load of debt by which they are encumbered at home and abroad, and above all the large sum of arrears due to the army, we think it our duty to give such immediate orders as may lead to a relief through the means of such retrenchments as obviously suggest themselves upon the first view of the subject.

3. To this object solely we mean at present to confine ourselves upon the subject of establishments, and you are to consider our present directions by no means as conclusive, either with regard to the extent of the reductions to be made or to the mode in which our establishments are in future to be regulated, but as arrangements temporary in their nature and requiring therefore an immediate and implicit obedience.

4. The revenues of Bengal demand our earliest attention. We shall not now enter into the merits or expediency of the plan adopted by you in the year 1781 for the administration of the revenues, but as in the present distressing situation of affairs at your Presidency the extent of the allowances for commission etc. cannot possibly be suffered, and it being absolutely necessary to commence an immediate saving in the material branch of our resources, we have come to the unanimous resolution and do hereby positively direct that the charges of collection, the allowances to Zemindars, the expences for the courts of *adawlut* and the stipends to the Nabob and his ministers shall not henceforth exceed the annual sum of 72 lacks of *sicca* rupees.

5. In fixing this limitation of expence we have grounded our orders upon the expence of the different heads of charges as they stood in 1776/7, agreeable to the revenue accounts of that year sent home by the *Duke of Portland*.

6. Holding you therefore bound to reduce the expences in the articles above enumerated to a sum not exceeding 72 lacks of rupees we further direct you to the observance of the following rules in carrying this immediate reduction into execution. We take it for granted, and are fortified in that opinion by your own correspondence, that the enormous increase of the expenses of the Revenue Department, between the year 1776 and the present time, must have arisen from unreasonable additions in the articles of a contingent nature. We presume, from the assurances contained in the 184th paragraph of your letter dated the 5th April 1783, that you have already made a considerable progress in

reducing the excesses which have arisen in this branch, and we rely upon your zeal and firmness to persevere in a minute investigation of those expenses so that in future every article which is not of absolute necessity may be restrained. But if from the progress already made a sufficient fund shall not result to enable you to carry our positive order into execution, we direct that the whole offices under the Revenue Department shall undergo a proportional defalcation of so much per cent upon the whole aggregate sum of their salary and emoluments as may answer the purpose of that reduction we have ordered immediately to take place. We have only further to add upon this subject that if the proportional defalcation from the salaries and emoluments of each office shall be found necessary, agreeable to the last general rule we have suggested, it shall not operate so as to create any reduction from the stipends or allowances to the Nabob or his ministers, or to the annual allowances to zemindars or other natives entitled to stipends in virtue of positive stipulations with your Government.

7. We shall now give you our directions for some immediate retrenchment in the collection of the customs in Bengal as constituting the second branch of revenue.

8. And here we remark with concern that the allowances for commission given to the members of the Board of Customs have exceeded all reasonable bounds, and which alone have increased the charges incurred in collecting the customs to more than double their amount in former years. The estimated emoluments to the collectors of Moorshedabad, Calcutta, Patna and Dacca we also consider too high, especially as on the general plan of reform, necessary to be made, they will probably exceed the allowances to offices of greater trust and importance.

9. We have therefore determined that the Board of Customs shall be abolished forthwith and the management of the customs committed to the charge of the Committee of Revenues but without any addition to their allowances on this account.

10. The allowances to the collectors of Government customs must be reduced to what they were in 1776, and the fees on *rawanas* at the present rate collected for the Company, but the whole expense of collecting the Government customs must be included in the 72 lacks appropriated for the charges of the revenues.

11. In respect to the Company's Custom Master we direct that instead of his present salary of current rupees 1900 per month he be allowed current rupees 1000 per month, and the allowances to his deputy must be reduced to current rupees 500 per month.

12. We consider the profits arising from salt as the third branch of our revenue. By the account entered on your Revenue Consultations of January 1784, the profits on the salt of 1781/2, made out to the end of April 1783, after deducting what belongs to the former years' account,

is stated at *sicca* rupees 49,15,802, 10 per cent on which for commission to the Comptroller and agents will be *sicca* rupees 4,91,580 or upwards of £ sterling 60,000.

13. We imagine the success of the plan has exceeded your expectations when you settled this commission; we cannot however, in justice to our other servants, suffer the Comptroller and agents to draw such excessive emoluments as the division of so large a sum in the proportions fixed, added to the salaries given them besides this commission would yield them.

14. We direct, therefore, that the salaries to the Comptroller, Deputy Comptroller, agents and deputies be discontinued from the receipt of these our orders; and that, in lieu of the commission of 10 per cent now drawn, a commission of 5 per cent be taken in future on the nett profits of the salt, and that one quarter part thereof shall in the first instance be drawn by the Comptroller, out of which he shall pay his deputy and assistant, and the remainder of the 5 per cent shall be divided between the five agents by the same rules and proportions as the former allowance of 10 per cent, each agent paying their respective assistants out of their proportion of the commission.

15. Having thus gone through such regulations as appear necessary for immediately retrenching the expences of your Revenue Department we shall proceed to give you our orders respecting similar retrenchments in the General and Commercial Departments.

16. We have come to a resolution that the allowances of the offices under the Civil Department shall instantly be confined to the amount in the year 1776; according to the list No. 15 accompanying you will perceive that, in general, the posts you have made since that year are there abolished.

17. We have not thought it expedient, at present, to give any directions respecting the Residents at the respective courts of the Nizam and Madhajee Scindia. But with respect to the office of Resident at any other of the Eastern courts, notwithstanding we have thought proper for the present to abolish them, yet as you must be the most competent judges of the expediency thereof, we give you a latitude, upon any particular exigency of our affairs, to act herein as the necessity of the case may hereafter require, but at the same time we enjoin you to confine the charges thereof within the most economical bounds.

18. We do not approve of the present mode of supplying the hospital with medicines, and by the Surgeon General who ought rather to be a check upon the person concerned in those supplies, nor can we admit of the allowance made him for that purpose being continued at its present very large amount of *sicca* rupees 4300 per month; this must therefore suffer a considerable reduction and a more eligible mode pursued for discharging the expence of the hospital and medicine shop at Calcutta.

19. We recommend it to your serious and immediate attention the reduction of every other article of expence comprized under the head of civil charges at the Presidency.

20. We conceive that such temporary appointments as you found necessary to make in consequence of the war have been abolished already, but should any of them be still in existance the same must immediately, upon the receipt hereof, be annulled.

21. We observe that in 1775/6 the total civil charges of your Government did not exceed 21,75,064 current rupees, and that in 1776/7 they did not exceed 19,84,737 current rupees including the charges of the Supreme Court of Judicature. We therefore direct you that in the present moment of urgency and immediately necessary reduction the charge of this department shall not exceed the amount of 20 lacks of current rupees conformable to the accompanying list, and when we form and transmit to you our final arrangement of establishments for your settlement, we trust it will be in our power to arrange the Civil Departments within those bounds.

22. The charges of your marine in 1776 appear not to have exceeded the sum of Rs. 3,50,000, and although a great expence has been incurred during the war in fitting out armed vessels we do not see the necessity of continuing a larger establishment for that service now that peace is restored. We therefore direct that it be reduced to that amount in future.

23. We trust that upon the return of peace you have already made every reduction in the military establishments consistent with the safety of our settlement. If you have not you will do it without delay. We shall take an early opportunity of directing what we conceive to be an adequate military establishment in time of peace. At this distance we think it dangerous to form hasty and premature opinions. But although for this reason we avoid immediately to draw a precise line for your guide upon the whole of this important branch of your expenditure we do not hesitate with regard to many of the employments in some degree connected with military detail, and therefore we positively direct that the several posts in the military department occupied by covenanted servants such as paymasters, commissaries etc. be immediately reduced, both as to their number and allowances, to what they were in 1775 or 1776 according to the accompanying list; and as we mean to adhere to the military establishment of 1776 as much as circumstances will admit it is our positive direction that no promotions of field or other officers be made in any of the corps until all such as are supernumerary are provided for or until you receive other orders from us; and as we have abolished the post of Commandant of the Garrison of Fort William, by which means, under the preceding regulation, Colonel Hampton may claim from his rank to succeed to the command of a brigade as vacancies may happen, we leave it to your own discretion and judgement either to appoint him to such a command or to give him, in lieu thereof, colonel's



pay and half *batta* without any command as you may think best for our service.

24. By the military accounts of 1777/8 it appears that the heads of contingent charges, boat charges, hospital charges and house rent amounted to current rupees 7,91,908 which sum we trust will not be exceeded in future; and even if possible a reduction made on this amount.

25. The expence of the contracts for bullocks, elephants and camels appears, by the same accounts, to have been current rupees 2,06,000 within which sum we likewise hope it will be limited in future.

26. We observe also that the contingencies for writers, *sircars* etc. to the field officers are very exorbitant, and we point this out to your attention for the purpose of making every possible reduction therein.

27. We have thought proper to direct that in future the senior colonel commanding a brigade shall be considered as the officer next in rank in Bengal to the Commander in Chief in India, and as such we consent to his receiving an addition to the usual allowance of *sonaut* rupees 8000 per annum, it being our intention that after the departure of General Stibbert the second in command shall not be promoted to an higher rank than that of colonel.

28. It must be left to General Stibbert's option to take the above posts but in the present emergency we cannot admit of his drawing the large allowances he now enjoys.

29. We doubt much the necessity for continuing the establishment of the Board of Ordnance, but upon this we mean not finally by this dispatch to decide; but we have made a reduction in the expence of that establishment as will appear by the list of military staff officers accompanying this letter.

30. We direct that such officers as may be thrown out of immediate employ, in consequence of our orders on this subject being carried into execution, may be allowed the pay and half *batta* of their respective ranks in the service till vacancies happen, as it is not our intention, by any means, to deprive them of a decent subsistence.

31. Respecting the Commercial Department all new appointments made therein since 1776, we have resolved, shall be abolished and the salaries and allowances to the servants under that department reduced to what they were in 1776, and we rely on our Board of Trade for immediately making every possible retrenchment in the other articles of expence under their direction.

32. We positively order and direct that on the receipt of this letter you immediately and without delay make the above retrenchments in the Civil, Revenue and Commercial Departments and conform exactly



to the enclosed lists of reductions. We have been in the present moment under the necessity of leaving the execution of many articles, even of retrenchments immediately expected, to your own exertions. We trust that on all such occasions you will consider our recommendations to be founded on well grounded expectation of compliance with them, and shall judge of your fidelity in our service and your attention to the public welfare by the success of your exertions in rendering those recommendations effectual.

33. As we have refrained from appointing and sending out writers to the several Presidencies since the year 1782, and as we are precluded from making any further appointments, by the 40th and 41st clause of the late Act of Parliament, until we have received from our several Presidencies a state of their establishments with compleat lists of all the offices and employments, both civil and military, in our pay or service in India, for the purpose of adopting every practicable retrenchment and reduction, we hope and trust that the additional superfluous expence, with other evils pointed out by you in your letter from the Revenue Department of the 5th May 1781 to have arisen from your establishment having been burthened with a greater number of servants appointed from hence than you could possibly employ, will gradually lessen and thereby facilitate the operation of that strict and rigid system of economy which we have most anxiously at heart.

34. We are aware that in consequence of the directions we have given many of our servants will undergo a very mortifying alteration in their circumstances but the situation of our affairs renders it absolutely necessary. Opening in our service will again gradually occur, and as it is our indispensable duty it shall be our invariable practice to make the distributions of situations as they fall with the strictest impartiality. And in the meantime we direct that if any senior merchant is in consequence of our orders deprived of any more lucrative situation he shall, till otherwise provided for, receive for his subsistence a sum not exceeding *sicca* rupees 4000 per annum.

35. If any junior merchant is in the same manner deprived of any more lucrative situation he shall, for his subsistence, receive a sum not exceeding *sicca* rupees 3500.

36. If any factor is in the same manner reduced he shall receive, for subsistence, a sum not exceeding 3000 *sicca* rupees.

37. And if any writer is reduced in consequence of the orders herewith transmitted he shall receive, for subsistence, a sum not exceeding 2500 *sicca* rupees.

38. All such temporary allowances are to be discontinued when any of the above description of servants are re-appointed to situations more lucrative than the amount of those allowances.

11 APRIL 1785

RECEIVED  
11 APR 1785

39. We expect a ready and implicit acquiescence in all our servants, civil and military, to the reductions which you shall direct to take place in consequence of these our orders; and should any of them so far betray a spirit of dissatisfaction as to impede or embarrass your proceedings upon this subject, we direct that they be instantly dismissed the service and sent to Europe.

40. To relieve us from our present exigencies no alternative, we think, can be devised nor can we therefore admit of any deviation from the positive and express injunctions herein laid down.

41. By summing up the amount of savings arising out of the different retrenchments we have ordered to be immediately made, you will observe they form a very considerable sum, and we have the satisfaction to hope that the effect of it will be an immediate discharge of the arrears due to the army. To this object we desire the effect of every retrenchment to be in the first place directed, and we take this opportunity explicitly to declare it as a leading principle of our Government that the pay of the soldier ought never to be in arrear; while there is a rupee in your treasury he must be paid and every other article of expenditure must be postponed to that consideration. We wish this principle to be understood among all our servants, civil and military. We trust the effects of its being so understood will be to introduce a spirit of public economy among our civil servants and among our military a spirit of active exertion in time of war, of sober deportment in time of peace and a strict attention to discipline in time both of peace and war.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith / W. Devaynes / L.  
Sullivan/John Motteux/W. Bensley/  
Thos. Parry / F. Baring / John  
Manship / Jno. Woodhouse / Jno.  
Michie / George Tatem / J. Smith /  
Joseph Sparkes/Jas. Moffatt/Paul Le  
Mesurier / Hugh Inglis / E. Boehm /  
R. Hall/John Hunter/W. Mills/  
Geo. Johnstone/Step. Lushington.

London,  
the 11th April 1785.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 2.

ENCLOSURE 1

(Vide paragraphs 14 and 32)

The savings made by the Court's orders in the Revenue Department are as follows:—

Specific saving on salt by the abolition of the salaries to the Comptroller and agents	...	<i>sicca</i> rupees	1,17,920
A further saving will arise by the reduction of the commission formerly allowed the Comptroller and agents from 10 to 5 per cent which calculated on the profits of salt sold in 1782/3 may be computed at	... ..	...	2,40,000
			<hr/>
			3,57,920

LETTER FROM COURT

Specific saving by the abolition of the Board of Customs and the reduction of the allowances to the Collectors of Government Customs and assistants, the Custom Master and Deputy about ...	...	3,68,000
		<hr/>
		Rupees 7,25,920

Such further savings as refer to the statements of allowances to servants in the Revenue Department are contained in the general difference between the amount to which the expences of that department are now limited viz., 72 lacks of *sicca* rupees (as stated in the letter to Bengal) or £ sterling 900,000 and the actual amount of expences in 1782/3 the accounts of which are not received. But in 1781/2 the amount being 91 lacks of *sicca* rupees or £ 1,137,000 the difference between this sum and 72 lacks or £900,000 may be computed as the whole saving in the Revenue Department, which is 19 lacks of *sicca* rupees or £237,000 exclusive of the customs and the salt.

N.B.—The allowances given to members and assistants of the late Provincial Councils amounting in 1781/2 to *sicca* rupees 1,37,396 have been specifically abolished by the Court's orders.

East India House,  
12th April 1785.

By order of Court  
John Annis  
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

The savings made by the Court's orders in the Revenue Department.

Vide General Letter, paragraphs 9, 10, 11, 14.  
No. 10

ENCLOSURE 2

(Vide paragraph 16)

List of civil offices and employs with the present allowances to each and the Court's orders thereupon.

		Present allowances per annum.	Orders by the Court respect- ing future allowances.
Governor General	...	...	£25,000.
Additional allowance for house rent 1779	...	...	Abolished.
Four Councillors	...	each £10,000	Each £10,000.
Secretary to the Public Department	...	...	The whole expence for allow- ances to Secretary and assist- ants to be reduced to what it was in the year 1776, which appears to have been <i>sicca</i> rupees 60,560 per annum.
Sub Secretary	...	<i>sicca</i> rupees 14,400	
Nine assistants including Register	...	...	
Secretary to Secret Department ... salary	...	27,600	
Secretary to Secret Department.... house rent and in lieu of fees	...	14,400	
Sub Secretary to Secret Department	...	12,000	
Thirteen assistants in the Secret Department including Register	...	9,600	
Five assistants to Governor General and Council in Secretary's office	...	36,000	
	...	18,000	
		<hr/> Sicca rupees 1,41,600	

	Present allowances per annum.	Orders by the Court respect- ing future allowances.
Secretary to the Board of Inspection including house rent ...	<i>sicca</i> rupees 10,800	To be reduced to <i>sicca</i> rupees 7,200 as in 1776.
Two assistants to Secretary ...	2,400	To be one assistant 1,200.
Accountant General including house rent ...	19,200	Including house rent 16,000.
$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent commission on the revenues as Auditor of Revenue Accounts ...	56,200	Abolished.
Sub Accountant ...	7,200	Reduced to 5,920 as in 1776.
Assistant to Accountant General, not covenant servant ...	8,400	4,800.
Head Assistant and Examiner ...	8,400	4,800.
Assistant to Examiner ...	1,200	1,200.
Assistant to the Comptroller of the Offices ...	3,000	Reduced to 1,680 as in 1776.
Persian Translator including house rent ...	10,800	Reduced to 7,200 as in 1776.
Deputy Translator ...	7,200	Reduced to 600 as in 1776.



ENCLOSURE 2—Contd.

	Present allowances per annum.	Orders by the Court respect- ing future allowances.
Assistant to Translator	... sicca rupees 1,200	Abolished.
Sub Treasurer	... gratuity 500	500
Assistant to Sub Treasurer	... 9,600	Reduced to [...] as in 1776.
Post Master General	... salary 12,000	Reduced to [...] as in 1776.
10 per cent on receipts estimated at ...	... 5,600	Commission abolished.
Servants and establishment	... 9,200	[...]
Deputy Post Master General	... 3,000	[...]
Mint Master } commission on coinage	...	Commission to . . . . .
Assay Master } gratuity	... 640	as at present . . . . .
French and Dutch Translator	... 1,656	Assay Master's gratuity . . . . .
Clerk to the Court of Requests	... 2,400	Reduced to 456 as in 1776.
		Reduced to current rupees 1,000 as in 1776.
Civil Paymaster a commission on his disbursements equal to about ...	... 24,000	The commission to be abolished and the Civil Paymaster allow- ed the same salary as the Buxey formerly had.

11 APRIL 1785

## ENCLOSURE 2—Contd.

	Present allowances per annum.	Orders by the Court respect- ing future allowances.
Assistant to Civil Paymaster ...	...	Abolished.
Superintendent of the Police including house rent	...	Including house rent 6,400 per annum.
Allowance for servants ...	...	2,400.
Deputy Superintendents ...	...	Abolished.
Agent for providing post bearers	...	Salary to be abolished, the charge of the bearers being given to the Post Master.
Compiler of Standing Orders	...	Office and salary abolished.
Allowance to Compiler for Assistants	...	Abolished.
Printer to the Company including house rent	...	Salary and house rent abolished; as he is paid for what he does for the Company.
Two chaplains at the Presidency	...	Reduced to <i>sicca</i> rupees 6,420 each per annum for salary and house rent etc. as in 1776.
Surgeon General ... Salary	...	{ Salary and house rent reduced to <i>sicca</i> rupees 8,000 per annum.
House rent	...	

ENCLOSURE 2—Contd.

Allowance for defraying the expenses of the Calcutta shop and Presidency Hospital		Present allowances per annum.		Orders by the Court respecting future allowances.	
Physician to Calcutta ... salary and house rent	...	Arcot rupees	51,600	To be reduced—see General Letter, paragraph 18.	
For medical assistance to the prisoners in Calcutta jail	...	...	9,600	} Abolished—the assistant surgeons at the Presidency to attend the prisoners in rotation.	
Medical Inspector	...	...	6,000		
Coroner	...	...	9,600		
Mineralogical Surveyor	...	...	3,600	Reduced to 672 as in 1776.	
[ ] General ... salary and house rent	...	sonaut rupees	12,612	Supposed ceased on Mr. Hotchkis's death, not to be re-established.	
[ ] General	...	...	£3,000	Reduced to <i>sonaut</i> rupees 6,000 as in 1776.	
Allowance for official charges	...	current rupees	30,000	£3,000.	
[ ] temporary establishment for the acting Justice and Interpreter	...	Arcot rupees	13,800	Abolished.	
Interpreter to Supreme Court of Judicature	...	...	8,000	Reduced to Arcot Rupees 6,360 as in 1776 for the establishment of Clerk of the Peace.	
Additional allowance in 1780	...	<i>sicca</i> rupees	18,000	Reduced to Arcot rupees 8,000.	
Register of natives appointed by the Council General	...	...	18,000	Additional allowance abolished.	
				Salary abolished.	

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## ENCLOSURE 2—Contd.

	Register of natives appointed by the Supreme Court	Present allowances per annum.	Orders by the Court respecting future allowances.
Resident at Owde and assistants	...	...	Salary recommended to be abolished.
Accountant at Lucknow	...	24,000	Now recalled and allowance cease.
Resident at Benares	...	12,000	If this appointment is absolutely necessary the allowances must be reduced to sicca rupees 12,000.
Two assistants	...	7,920	To be reduced to one assistant with salary and house rent 4,320.
Surgeon at Benares and Interpreter to the Resident	...	sonaut rupees 11,265 3,600	Both to be abolished.
Resident at Balasore	...	18,000	To be reduced to sicca rupees 6,000.
Resident at Hyderabad	...	35,856	If these Residencies are found necessary to be continued the allowances must be reduced. See General Letter, paragraph 17.
Assistant	...	6,144	
Resident with Mahadajee Scindia	...	35,856	
Assistant	...	6,144	

ENCLOSURE 2—Contd.

Present allowances  
per annum.      Orders by the Court respect-  
ing future allowances.

Resident at Goa	...	...	sonaut rupees	35,856	} All these to be abolished.
Assistant	...	...	...	6,144	
On deputation to Thibet	...	...	sicca rupees	36,000	
Surveyor to attend the deputation	...	...	...	8,240	
Resident with the Mogul	...	...	...	Not stated	
Resident at Furruckabad	...	...	...	Not stated	

Allowance to Compiler of Standing Orders,  
appointed December 1780, on his removal in 1783  
continued to him.

To be abolished.

18,000

...

East India House,  
12th April 1785.

By order of Court  
John Annis  
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

List of civil offices and employs with the present allowances to each,  
and the Court's orders thereupon, as referred to in the General Letter,  
paragraph 16.



## ENCLOSURE 3

(Vide paragraph 23)

List of military offices and employs with the present allowances to each  
and the Court's orders thereupon.

	Present allowances per annum.	Allowances per annum as ordered by the Court.
Governor General's staff—10	sonaut rupees 73,572	To be reduced [...] and, expence to [...] were in 1776.
Governor General's Body Guard of Cavalry as establishment of 1779	...	To continue.
Governor General's Body Guard of Infantry	72,000	To be abolished.
Commander in Chief's allowance for staff etc., in the field	98,424	To be abolished.
Allowance for house rent to the Commander in Chief	£ 6,000	To continue.
Aid de Camp to Mr. Wheeler as eventual successor to the Government	sicca rupees 24,000	To be reduced to [...].
Provincial Commander in Chief allowances for salary, table, contingencies and commission on the revenues	sonaut rupees 4,800	To be abolished.
Commandant of Fort William garrison	...	To be reduced [...] Gene- ral Letter, paragraph [...].
Paymaster of the Works	18,250	To be abolished.
Military Paymaster General for pay and <i>batta</i> etc.	sicca rupees 12,000	To be reduced to [...].
	sonaut rupees 26,400	To be reduced to [...] per annum in full [...] of pay, <i>batta</i> , [...].
Allowance for writers	...	To continue.
Deputy Military Paymaster General	12,000	To be reduced to [...].
	12,000	To be reduced to [...].

# ENCLOSURE 3—Contd.

	Present allowances per annum.	Allowances per annum as ordered by the Court.
Accountant to Military Paymaster General, pay, <i>batta</i> etc. ...	<i>sonaut</i> rupees 10,545	To be reduced to <i>sonaut</i> [...].
Three assistants in Military Paymaster's office ...	7,200	To continue.
Commissary General, allowances, <i>batta</i> etc. ...	26,400	To be reduced to <i>sonaut</i> rupees 2,000 in full for allow- ances, <i>batta</i> , commission etc.
For assistants ...		To continue.
Deputy Commissary General ...	15,600	To be reduced to <i>sonaut</i> rupees 6,400.
Quarter Master General ...	18,260	To be abolished.
Judge-Advocate General exclusive of 16 rupees a day when on courts martial ...	11,900	To be reduced to <i>sonaut</i> rupees 4,800 exclusive of 16 rupees a day when on courts martial.
Military Storekeeper ...	15 per cent agency	To be reduced to 10 per cent.
Paymasters to 3 brigades and to the garrisons and artillery allowed a commission on disbursements and allowances for contingencies ...	...	The commission [to be abo- lished] and to be allowed [pay and <i>batta</i> ] etc., contin- gencies as before the Regula- tions of June 1780.
Deputy Paymasters to 3 brigades and to the garrisons and artillery allowed each <i>sonaut</i> rupees 600 per month besides contingencies ...	...	Only a Deputy Paymaster to be allowed to [each brigade] and to be reduced [to the] same pay and allowances as before the Regulations of January 1781.

11 APRIL 1785

ENCLOSURE 3—Contd.

22  
22

LETTER FROM COURT

	Present allowances per annum.	Allowances per annum as ordered by the Court.
[... Paymasters] to militia <i>sepoys</i> ...	each— <i>sonaut</i> rupees 1,200	If covenant servants are continued to be employed as paymasters to the militia or <i>sibbendy</i> at the different stations, to have the same allowance each as here stated.
[... Paymaster] to the detachment at Futty Ghur allowed a commission [on his] disbursements ...	...	This Paymastership to be abolished.
[Deputy] Paymaster at Futty Ghur and Chunar <i>sonaut</i> rupees 600 per month etc.	...	To be abolished.
[.....] to the troops beyond the Caramnassa [.....] Paymaster to the troops beyond the Caramnassa.	...	These 3 offices to be abolished.
[.....] to the troops beyond the Caramnassa		
[.....] Interpreter to Commander in Chief, pay, <i>batta</i> , contingencies ...	15,200	To be reduced to <i>sonaut</i> rupees 8,000 in full for pay, <i>batta</i> and contingencies.
[.....] to Commander in Chief, pay, <i>batta</i> , contingencies ...	7,760	To be as in 1776 in cantonments.
[.....] to the garrison of Fort William and to the three brigades [...] pay and <i>batta</i> ...	...	To be reduced to captain's pay and <i>batta</i> .

ENCLOSURE 3—Contd.

		Present allowances per annum.	sonaut rupees	12,720	Abolished.
[.....] to the army	...	...	...	12,560	Abolished. To succeed to the Chaplainship of a brigade when vacant.
[.....] to the troops in the Vizier's dominions	...	...	...	4,800	To continue.
[Secretary] to the Military Department	...	...	...	16,080	To be reduced to <i>sicca</i> rupees 4,000.
[Allowance] to the [Secretary to] the Military [Department] for assistants etc., etc.	...	...	...	...	
[Secretary] to the Board of Ordnance	...	...	...	21,600	To be reduced to 7,200.
[Allowance] for assistants and contingencies	...	...	...	24,000	To be reduced to 2,400.
[Deputy] Secretary to the Ordnance	...	...	...	7,200	To be reduced to 2,400.
[Commissaries] of Ordnance and Deputy Commissaries	...	...	...	...	The number to be reduced to 2 Commissaries and 4 Deputies with same allowances to each as at present.

11 APRIL 1785

By order of the Court  
John Annis  
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

East India House,  
12th April 1785.

List of military offices and employs with the present allowances to each and the Court's orders thereupon, as referred to in the General Letter, paragraph 23.

## ENCLOSURE 4

(Vide paragraphs 31 and 32)

List of offices under the Commercial Department with the present allowances to each and the Court's orders thereupon.

		Present allowances per annum.	Allowances per annum ordered by the Court.
President of the Board of Trade	...	...	To continue.
Allowance for house rent ...	...	£2,000 Arcot rupees 12,000	To be reduced to Arcot rupees 4,000.
Ten members of the Board	...	...	To continue.
Secretary to the Board of Trade... salary and house rent	...	each £1,500	To be reduced to <i>sicca</i> rupees 6,000 as in 1776.
Assistant Secretary, appointed in 1783	...	...	To be abolished.
Deputy Secretary	...	10,800 4,800	To be reduced to 2,400 as in 1776.
Head Assistant and Examiner	...	...	To be reduced to 1,200 each.
Other assistants	...	each 3,600	To be reduced to 1,200.
Secretary to the Committee of <i>Aurungs</i>	...	2,400	To be abolished.
Bengal Translator	...	1,800	To continue.
Assistant to the President	...	2,400	To be reduced to 1,200.
Accountant ... including house rent	...	3,600 19,200	To be reduced to 9,600 as in 1776.
Sub Accountant... including house rent	...	7,360	To be reduced to 2,400 as in 1776.
Head Assistant in Accountant's office	...	3,600	To be reduced to 1,200.
Other assistants in Accountant's office	...	each 1,200	To continue.



ENCLOSURE 4—Contd.

			Present allowances per annum.	Allowances per annum as ordered by the Court.
Sub Treasurer	...	...	...	To be reduced to 2,400 as in 1776.
Export Warehousekeeper	...	...	6,000	To be reduced to 6,000 as in 1776.
Sub Export Warehousekeeper	...	...	18,000	To be reduced to 2,400 as in 1776.
Head Assistant in Export Warehouse	...	...	vacant	To be abolished.
	...	...	3,600	To be reduced to 2,400 as in 1776.
Other assistants	...	...	each 1,800	To be reduced to [...] as in 1776.
Import Warehousekeeper—held by member of the Board	...	...	...	To continue without salary.
Sub Import Warehousekeeper	...	...	4,800	To be reduced to 1,920 as in 1776.
Allowance to Sub Import Warehousekeeper for keeping the books	...	...	2,400	To be abolished.
Buxey	...	...	8,400	To be reduced to 2,400 as in 1776.
Allowance to Auditor for writers	...	...	2,400	To be abolished.
Agent for loading, unloading and dispatching Company's ships including sloop hire	...	...	33,400	To be reduced to 12 rupees per day as in 1776.
Assistant to do	...	...	3,000	Abolished.
Superintendent of Cloth Investment	...	...	current rupees 9,340	To be reduced to current rupees 6,400.
Deputy Superintendent of Cloth Investment	...	...	8,400	Abolished.

11 APRIL 1785

## ENCLOSURE 4—Contd.

	Present allowances per annum.	Allowances per annum as ordered by the Court.
Superintendent of Silk Investment	...	current rupees 10,800
Superintendent of Silk Filatures	...	...
Assistant	...	13,288
Residents at the factories and <i>aurungs</i> allowed each	...	1,702
	<i>sicca</i> rupees	6,000
Head Assistants at the factories	...	...
Other assistants	...	...
Next in succession to a seat at the Board of Trade allowed the same as if a member	...	...
		£1,500
		To be abolished.

East India House,  
12th April 1785.

By order of Court  
John Annis  
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

List of offices under the Commercial Department with the present  
allowances to each and the Court's orders thereupon, as referred to in  
the General Letter, paragraph 31.

No. 13.

## LETTER DATED 8 JULY 1785

*Neglect to send latest books and accounts censured and strict compliance with orders enjoined—Committee of Accounts abolished—junior servants to be posted to different offices for training—Board of Trade to accept the Governor General in Council's decision on all disputed points—machines for improving silk manufacture.*

Sent per *Surprize*, *Earl Talbot*, etc. 8th July 1785.

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letters to you were dated the 11th April last, and transmitted in duplicate by the ships *Deptford* and *Dutton*.

2. Since the dispatch of these ships we have received overland and by the *Surprize* packet, which arrived at Limerick on the 9th April, the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

Overland	{	General Letters dated 12th October and 13th November 1784.
	{	Letters from the Governor General dated 1st and 20th October 1784.
Surprize packet	{	General Letters dated 1st April, 23rd August and 10th December 1784.
	{	Separate General Letter dated 10th December 1784.
	{	Secret Letters dated 20th August, 13th November and 8th December 1784.
	{	Letters in the Foreign Department dated 13th November and 8th December 1784.
	{	Revenue Letters dated 31st March and 1st December 1784.
	{	Letter from the Board of Trade dated 3rd December 1784.

3. We have also received two letters from our Governor General dated 22nd November and 6th December 1784, and by the ship *Southampton* the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letter dated 28th December 1784.

Revenue Letter dated 24th December 1784.

Letter from the Board of Trade dated 14th December 1784.

4. We shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts of those advices as may appear to demand our attention.

5. We have appointed William Devaynes Esqr., our Chairman, Nathaniel Smith Esqr., our Deputy Chairman, together with George Cuming, John Manship, John Michie, Laurence Sullivan and John Woodhouse Esqrs. to be the Committee of Secrecy for giving the necessary directions respecting the safety of the Company's shipping, the orders therefore of any three of the said Committee, respecting the same, must be obeyed with the greatest punctuality.

6. Having appointed William Devaynes Esqr., Chairman, Nathaniel Smith Esqr., Deputy Chairman, and Laurence Sullivan Esqr., during the present direction, to be a Secret Committee agreeably to and for the purposes stated in the 15th and 16th clauses of the Act of the last session of Parliament, Cap. 25, entitled "An Act for the better regulation and management of the affairs of the East India Company and of the British possessions in India, and for establishing a Court of Judicature for the more speedy and effectual trial of persons accused of offences committed in the East Indies", we hereby direct that all orders and instructions which you shall receive from our said Secret Committee be observed and obeyed with the same punctuality and exactness as though they had been signed by thirteen or more members of the Court of Directors, conformably to the said Act.

Date of Permission      7. Mr. Robert Maxwell has obtained our leave  
17th March 1785.      to proceed to India under free mariners' indentures.

8. We have also permitted Lieutenant Thomas Stephenson, late  
21st March 1785.      commander of His Majesty's storeship *Harriet*, who is in India, to remain there as a free mariner.

9. Mr. John Herbert has our permission to proceed to India and  
Bengal (Circular).      remain there three years for the purpose of recovering his effects.

10. Mr. George Allen having represented to us that he entered into the Company's service in the year 1760 and acted in different stations on board many of their ships till the year 1781, when he commanded the *True Briton* on the death of Captain Timbrill, and that a long illness prevented his proceeding with that ship on her present voyage, by which misfortune he is thrown entirely out of the service, and having requested to be nominated to succeed as Master Attendant in Bengal after Mr. Thornhill, we have taken Mr. Allen's long services into consideration and, being well satisfied with his conduct and abilities, direct that he be appointed to that post when the same shall be vacated by Mr. Thornhill.

11. Mr. John Lamb, who was an assistant surgeon on your establishment and came to England with your permission as surgeon of the ship *Lord Macartney*, has our leave to return to Bengal to practice in his profession and to be promoted in our service in the manner directed in our letter of the 16th March 1784.

12. Mr. Thomas Morris who was an assistant surgeon on your establishment and came to England as surgeon of the *Warren* and had our leave to return to Bengal having represented that he cannot avail himself of that indulgence, and requested permission to resign his station at your Presidency, we have accepted his resignation accordingly.

13. Mr. Morris having also requested the payment in England of his allowances which, as he states, commenced on the 1st January 1783 and ended on the 25th December following, the day on which he landed in England, and at the rate of *sonaut* rupees 2,843 or £355-7-6 per annum amounts to the sum of £350-10-1, we have under the particular circumstances of his case complied therewith, and having deducted the sum of £50 formerly advanced him we have paid him the balance, being £300-10-1.

14. And as Mr. Morris has given security to return the amount, payable in London, if it should appear that the same has been paid to his attornies in Bengal, in consequence of our having in our letters of 16th March and 23rd April 1784 referred his accounts to be liquidated by you, we direct that you take the earliest opportunity of acquainting us whether you have adjusted his claims or advanced any money on account thereof.

15. Having accidentally omitted to settle the rank of Mr. Francis Philips, who was appointed a cadet for Bengal in 1781, and took passage on the ship *Nassau*, we now direct that he be placed on your establishment next below Mr. John Drummond, who was the 79th cadet on our list of that season.

16. Mr. Richard Chaloner Jackson, who was appointed a cadet for Bengal in the season of 1782, and took passage on the Danish ship *Hussar*, having through accident been inserted in the list of rank by the name of John Chandler Jackson, we direct that you rectify the mistake in the list transmitted to your Presidency.

17. We cannot avoid expressing our disappointment in not receiving your General or Revenue books to a later period than 1781/2, and we feel this disappointment the more as we are enjoined by Act of Parliament to lay a complete state of the revenues and charges at the different Presidencies in India annually before the Lords of the Treasury to the latest period possible.

On books and accounts not sent home.

18. With respect to the General books we observe that those of 1781/2 are balanced and closed the 1st of October 1783, and as your last ship's dispatches were dated in December 1784, we cannot but conceive that the General books of 1782/3 might have been sent by that conveyance. This omission after our repeated orders to have every book and account sent home to the latest period possible appears deserving of censure, for notwithstanding the indisposition of your Accountant



General, of whose abilities and assiduity we are perfectly convinced, we think his deputy and assistants ought to have completed the books and accounts of which we so much stand in need. We therefore direct that you take particular care in future that we may not have any subject of complaint in this respect.

19. The books and accounts of the collections of revenues and the charges thereon for 1782/3 and 1783/4, ought to have been sent us by the *Surprise*. The Committee's report on the collections and balances of the year ending April 1784 appears to have been made to the Council in the Revenue Department on the 29th of July 1784, from whence to the 10th of December, the date of the *Surprise's* dispatch, there appears to have been sufficient time for making up the Revenue books and accounts of that year; at any rate however no excuse, we conceive, can be made for withholding those of 1782/3.

20. This backwardness therefore appears to merit our severest reprehension and we do positively direct that we may not experience the like in future.

21. We find likewise that you have not transmitted a state of the revenues of Bengal and Bahar since that for the year 1780/81. We direct that the omission be punctually supplied.

22. The General and subsidiary books of the Commercial Department for the year 1782/3 we find, are received but the particulars of the Bengal. *Buxey's* accounts of that department have never yet been transmitted; this omission, we direct, you will supply from the first institution of that Board.

23. The Civil and Marine Paymasters' and Naval Storekeeper's books for 1782/3, with the interest and deposit books from 1782 to 1784, as also the Military Paymaster General's books with the particulars of the military disbursements for 1782/3, are likewise received. Mr. Alexander's assiduity in this particular has our approbation, but we are surprised to find that no Military Storekeeper's books have been received from your Presidency since those of 1778/9.

24. Your general treasury accounts are received to 31st August 1784, but as the *Surprise* was not dispatched till December we had reason to expect you might have continued those accounts for some months later.

25. We now therefore repeat our positive injunctions that you send us every book and account to the latest period possible; particularly your General books and books of revenues, with such others as may be referred to therein, such as Paymasters, Collectors, etc. And we are resolved to mark every neglect of this kind in future with the severest tokens of our displeasure.

26. We particularly direct that you pay every possible attention to the preparing and transmitting to us, by the earliest conveyance, the

accounts ordered in the 40th section of the last Act of Parliament for the better regulation of the Company's affairs, and that it be accompanied with every explanation and information that can be given on the subject, in order not only to guide our judgement in considering thereof but that we may be enabled to lay before Parliament, at the opening of every session, the account required by the aforesaid Act made out with the greatest accuracy.

27. This naturally leads us to acknowledge the receipt of the list of covenant servants on your establishment with their employments, salaries and allowances sent home by the *Surprize*, upon which some remarks appear necessary to be made for your future directions.

28. We think it might have been brought down to a later period than the 1st January 1784, particularly as additional allowances to a considerable amount had been made in February and March following, such are [as] the additions to the salaries, etc. of the judges of *adawlats*, the appointments of a Judge and Collector to *Sircar* Rotas, etc. We find too that the name and allowance to Mr. J. Cheap, who signs the list as examiner in the Accountant's Office, is entirely omitted though he was appointed to the office in September 1783 and his allowance settled in January following. Mr. Meyer's name and office are in like manner omitted though his signature appears at the end of the list.

29. Another omission is that the names and offices of those persons who are not covenanted servants are entirely left out. Such are the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Salt Agents.

30. You will therefore be very attentive to the directions given in the 26th paragraph for preparing the account ordered by the Act of Parliament, which must contain every office, place or employ in every department under your Presidency held by servants of whatever denomination whether paid by the Company or otherwise, with the salaries, pay and emoluments of every kind annexed thereto.

31. We have perused your proceedings relative to the appointment of a Committee of Accounts to transact the business appertaining to your Board in the Department of Inspection. Even if the present situation of the Company's affairs did not absolutely and indispensably require that every possible reduction in their expences should immediately take place we should be far from being convinced of the necessity of the present arrangement. Peace being now re-established we conceive that you will have sufficient leisure to set apart at least one day in a week for assembling as a Board of Inspection, with the assistance of the Accountant General in the Civil Department and of the Commissary General in the Military, who should in the intermediate days audit and examine the several accounts and thus come prepared to make their observations or objections thereon to the Board, all the purposes of the original institution in 1772 might be fully answered, and an effectual check and control in

Committee of Accounts.

every branch of expenditure completely established. We do therefore hereby direct that the Committee of Accounts be forthwith abolished, and that you do immediately resume the business of that department as a Board of Inspection, that your meetings be constant and regular, and that your proceedings be transmitted to us in the same manner as those in the other departments.

32. We have attended to the proposal of your Accountant General, as communicated to us in your letter in the Public Department of the 3rd February 1783, for sending from hence two persons qualified to fill the 2nd and 3rd stations in his office, and cannot avoid expressing the utmost surprize that from the long list of junior servants under your Presidency two persons could not be found capable or willing to fill those stations. It either argues a great relaxation on your part in not training up the younger branches of our servants to be qualified for useful employments, or has a tendency to show that they wish to occupy at once those advantageous and lucrative posts to which they ought only to aspire after filling the inferior stations with industry and ability. We are confirmed in this opinion from the Accountant General's letter to your Board of the 5th March 1783, wherein he represents that notwithstanding you had permitted him to employ any of the junior servants as his assistants he had not received an offer from any of them, and that the persons to whom he tendered those stations did not hold the salaries annexed to them as any compensation for the labour which they would have to perform.

Assistants to the Accountants.  
Consultation Public Department 15th January 1783.  
Consultation Public Department 20th January 1783.  
Consultation Public Department 1st April 1783.  
Consultation 1st April.

33. But it is high time for us to interfere with your authority in giving a check to this spirit of indolence and independence which seems to be gone forth among our junior servants, as reproachful to themselves as it is prejudicial to the Company's affairs. We therefore direct that you do from time to time nominate such persons as you may deem capable of affording him assistance, and should any of them so nominated decline engaging therein they must be immediately dismissed from the Company's service, and in order that our junior servants may be properly trained to a knowledge of our affairs in the several departments we direct that they be distributed in the several public offices, and that the diligence and ability they may manifest therein be considered as the only road to appointments of greater consequence and emolument.

34. The method proposed by the Accountant General to the Board, in his letter of the 19th July 1784, and adopted by them, of preparing and transmitting the statement of quick and dead stock at the quarterly periods mentioned therein has our approbation and we direct that you see the same be punctually adhered to. We are likewise of opinion that the same regulation might, with much advantage, be extended to the estimates of

Bengal on quick stocks.

receipts and disbursements, and that it would be productive of considerable benefit to our service if they were, in like manner, made up and transmitted to us at fixed and invariable quarterly periods, but at the same time still continuing the annual estimates which we now receive.

35. And in order to render such papers more satisfactory to us they should always be followed, as soon as possible, by a comparison between the estimated and the actual receipts and disbursements, made up to the same periods and arranged under the same heads, together with such observations as may tend to show the causes of any material difference if such should exist between them.

36. It is also our wish that estimates and accounts in the same form and as nearly as possible to the same periods should be in like manner transmitted from our other settlements both to us and to your Government, nothing in our opinion tending more to that economy and good order necessary to the future prosperity of the Company than that every part of its receipt and expenditure should be brought frequently, and in detail, under the view of those who are entrusted either at home or abroad with the administration of its affairs. We observe that this subject was submitted to your consideration by the Accountant General the 25th January 1782, but we have not been able to find on any of your proceedings the form which he then laid before you for that purpose.

37. We therefore now direct that you lose no time in taking this subject again under consideration, and in forming with the assistance of the Accountant General a plan for the purpose to be transmitted by you to our other Governments, they being directed to conform to it, in order that our information of the state of our affairs throughout India may be constant, uniform and regular.

38. We have attended to the alterations that have been introduced into your accounts of quick stock of 31st December 1783, 31st July and 31st October 1784, by inserting the arrears of every kind in demand from your treasury or otherwise, and approve of the reasons urged in your Accountant General's letters of the 31st March and 6th December 1784 relative thereto. We agree likewise with him in opinion that those statements should include every effective article of debt and credit to the period on which they are made up in the completest manner possible.

39. With a view to this we therefore admit the propriety of inserting, as in the quick stock of 31st October, such balances of the land revenues as there may be probable reason to expect will be collected. But as you have included some balance outstanding of the years 1780/81 and 1781/82 we are fearful, considering how unusual it has hitherto been to collect balances of above two year's standing, that this is rather a doubtful credit in our favor. Of this however we allow you to be the most competent judges, but care must be always taken that no dubious articles be introduced into these statements except in such a manner as to distinguish them from others that may more certainly be relied on.



40. On the other hand we observe that the same quick stock includes on the credit side a large sum for bills drawn from the other Presidencies, part of which are accepted but not due, and a greater part had not then been presented for acceptance.

41. Conforming to our opinion, before expressed, that the statements of quick stock should contain every article of debt and credit to the period *only* to which they are made up, we cannot but consider this article as going beyond that period and consequently such as could not be fairly charged as a debt then owing by the Company.

42. On the whole the attention shewed by the Accountant General in framing these statements merits our warmest approbation and we trust he will continue the same exertions in this as in every other matter under his department.

43. Before we dismiss this subject we must enjoin you to use every exertion to recover the balances outstanding due to the Company inserted on your quick stock. We particularly refer, in this, to the loans to Major Tolley, the Commissioner of Police, and the balances due from the several paymasters etc. To this last article we draw your attention because of the heavy loss we are likely to sustain from the defalcations of the late paymasters to the garrisons and Second Brigade and approve of your resolution on the 27th June 1782 on the subject which we direct be constantly attended to.

44. The loan to Jong Atchen, the Chinese, we observe is wrote off to your dead stock account and of course considered as irrecoverable. We expect that you be very cautious in future in making loans from your treasury on any account without proper security of repayment and shall hold you responsible for any loss we may suffer thereby.

45. The large sum outstanding due from the *aurungs*, particularly at the Presidency, continuing on the several quick stocks since the year 1781 without much diminution and amounting by that of 31st October last to near 28 lacks of current rupees, also demands serious attention. And we trust our Board of Trade will use every possible exertion to see that the contractors fulfil their engagements and that we do not suffer any loss by these considerable advances.

46. Your Accountant General having, in his letter of 13th January 1784, had reason to complain of the want of official information relative to the disposal of the treasure sent to Madras in 1783/4, we approve of the mode proposed by him for preventing any such defect in future. And as it is of consequence to us that the General books should be as free as possible from the errors, which want of official information of any kind to the Accountant General would occasion, we direct that you pay particular attention to obviate the same.

47. The several papers which you lately transmitted to us relative



to the accounts of Mr. Bristow, late Resident at the court of the Nabob of Oudh, will be soon taken into consideration, and Mr. Bristow. our final sentiments and determination thereon will be transmitted to you by one of the early ships of the ensuing season.

48. Several officers of the Madras establishment having been advanced pay upon their arrival at Bombay we think it necessary to direct that in future the allowances to our civil and military servants do not commence until their arrival at the Presidency under which they are to serve, except when they are detained at any of our other settlements in India by the orders of Government or by unavoidable necessity.

49. The President and Council of Fort St. George have lately complained to us of the bad quality of provisions consigned to them from your settlement. They state that out of 1282 casks 1022 were wholly unserviceable, that the rest must be sold for whatever they could get for them, and that their storehouses would not have been, by any means, so much burthened with this unserviceable article had you attended to their repeated remonstrances against your continuing to send it. But that, notwithstanding every argument they could urge to the contrary, consignment upon consignment, both of salt provisions and of rum, have unremittingly been made to them, the former of which, as they allege, have often been of a very bad quality, and 320 casks which arrived at Madras in May 1784 appeared to be so entirely decayed that after landing and examining some of the casks they thought it best to return it by the vessel it came in, at a trifling freight, in order that you might recover the amount of the cost from the contractors, as it was not actually worth the expense of boat hire to bring it on shore.

50. We are sorry to observe, by your letter to Fort St. George of the 2nd August last, that from the particular declarations contained in the answer from the different agents for supplies you deem yourselves precluded from all hopes of recovering the property from any further procedure in this business.

51. But we can by no means submit to so heavy a loss without a more particular enquiry being made herein. Either the agents for the supplies, the contractors or the owners of the vessels must have materially failed in their respective duties. We do therefore direct that you immediately enter upon as strict an examination as possible into the subject of the present complaint, and that you take the opinion of the Advocate General whether any and what *legal* methods might be pursued for the recovery of the loss the Company has sustained herein. And if you shall find it to have arisen from any misconduct in our own servants employed in this transaction, we direct that you adopt the most rigorous and effectual measures for bringing them to a severe and exemplary punishment.

Bengal. Supply of  
provisions from Ben-  
gal to Fort St.  
George.

For St. George  
consultation 11th  
September 1784.

52. Since writing the foregoing paragraph the ship *Berrington* has arrived with advices from your Presidency under the following dates, viz.,

General Letters dated 29th December 1784, 8th, 17th, 28th and 31st January 1785.

Secret Letter dated 17th January 1785.

Revenue Letter dated 29th January 1785.

Letter in the Foreign Department dated 14th January 1785.

Letter from Mr. Secretary Bruere dated 1st February 1785.

Letter from the Board of Trade dated 31st December 1784, 7th 18th and 31st January 1785.

We have also received from Mr. David Anderson a letter from Mr. Secretary Hay, dated 29th January 1785, transmitting Mr. Grant's political survey of the Northern Circars, and by the Danish ship *Hussar* the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

General Letter dated the 5th February 1785.

Secret Letter dated the 3rd February 1785.

53. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts thereof as may appear to demand our attention.

54. We have perused the proceedings of the Board of Trade relative to the rank assigned to the Honourable Chas. Stuart at that Board on the death of Mr. Vanrixtel, and are extremely surprised that he was not at once admitted to the Presidentship according to his standing in the service and agreeably to the letter and spirit of our orders in this respect. But should your interference herein have proved ineffectual we hereby direct that Mr. Stuart be appointed President of the Board of Trade immediately upon the receipt hereof.

President of the Board of Trade.

Bengal.

55. And as the letter from the Secretary of the Board of Trade to your Secretary, of the 28th January last, indicates that that Board do not conceive themselves bound to abide by your determination herein, we think it necessary to direct that in all disputed points between the Governor General and Council and the Board of Trade the latter shall submit to your determination until the pleasure of the Court of Directors shall be known upon the subject in dispute.

56. We observe by your General Letter of the 17th January last, paragraphs 6 and 7, that you had resolved upon sending one of our chartered ships to Mocha with a small investment suited to that market in order to provide a cargo of coffee for Europe, and also that it is your intention to repeat this measure annually till you shall receive our sentiments on the advantages

Coffee.

arising therefrom. Upon a reference to your plan, as recorded on your proceedings of the 21st December, we are sensible that considered in a local point of view it embraces objects well worthy of attention, and that the furnishing the Mocha market with an annual supply of Bengal goods will, by being attended with beneficial advantages to the manufacturers, have its consequent influence on the revenues. But as ultimately the Company will be considerable losers upon the sales of the coffee in England, and as, from the present unfavourable state of the trade in Mocha coffee owing to the high rate of its first cost and the heavy rates thereon, the quantity we have already received from Bombay, viz., 2111 bales together with what we may further expect by the *Lord Camden* is equal to the probable demand for a great number of years to come, you will therefore desist from sending any more of our chartered ships to Mocha for the purpose of a provision of coffee or of taking any other measures whatsoever for providing of that article for Europe, until you shall receive our further directions thereon. But we do not mean to preclude you from carrying on any trade to Mocha or any other place in that neighbourhood, provided you have reasonable grounds of belief that it will prove advantageous to the Company, and that such trade is not carried on in the chartered ships of the Company.

57. Though we think you were justified, under all circumstances, in sending home the *Surprize* yet we must embrace this opportunity of signifying to you that in time of peace we expect that you do not put us to such great expense unless the case is momentous and of great importance to the interests of the Company.

58. Although the *Surprize* is freighted this voyage cheaper than when she was before sent to England yet we consider the expense as very great, especially as the Company are precluded from sending either goods or passengers without the consent of the owners; and the terms in general are so unfavorable to the Company that we cannot suppose any law officer belonging to them at your Presidency was consulted in drawing up the charter party, which is worded in a vague, loose and indefinite manner.

59. We have determined to return the *Surprize* immediately to Bengal, and having conferred with Mr. David Mitchell, agent to the owner of that vessel, respecting the length of her passage from Bengal and the time of landing the packet in Great Britain in order to determine precisely the amount of the freight to Europe, he produced a certificate of Edward Shouldham, pilot, that he quitted the *Surprize* packet on the 16th December 1784, and an affidavit made by Mr. Charles White that he arrived at Holyhead with the *Surprize's* packets on the 14th April last at midnight, and delivered them at the East India House on the 17th of the same month about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

60. Having no other proof of the time when the *Surprize* left the pilot, nor of the day on which the packer was landed in Great Britain, besides the above certificate and affidavit, the authenticity of which we

have no reason to doubt, and the payment of the freight being by the charterparty to be made in Bengal, where it will be easy to ascertain the exact time of her leaving the pilot, we have only to observe that should the date be found to correspond with the certificate produced by Mr. Mitchell the ship must be considered to have landed the packet in Great Britain within the period of four months (it having been received at the East India House on the 17th April) and consequently the amount of the freight from Bengal to Great Britain will, according to the terms of the charterparty, be twenty five thousand *sicca* rupees.

61. Mr. James Lyons, at Limerick, having drawn a bill upon our Secretary for £85-14-8, being the amount of the expence of conveying from thence to London the Company's packets by the *Surprize*, we agreed to pay the same. But it being the established custom of the service to deliver the packets at the East India House free of charge to the Company, and expressly stipulated in the charterparty of that vessel that the packets should be delivered in Great Britain, we directed our Secretary to inform Captain Asquith that we expected he would repay the said sum of £85-14-8 into our treasury. Captain Asquith signified that having no orders from Lieutenant Colonel Watson, the owner of the *Surprize*, to pay any expence attending the landing and delivery of the Company's packet by that vessel he must refer the matter to be settled with that gentleman in Bengal, where the freight is made payable; we therefore direct that on the adjustment of the accounts of that vessel you deduct the abovementioned sum.

62. We informed you in our last per *Deptford* and *Dutton* that we should send you, by some future conveyance, a few brass wheels for raw silk of superior strength to those formerly sent. You will receive them by the same conveyance which brings this letter, and so far as we are able to judge we conceive they will obviate every objection which lay against the former ones with respect to their durability, and may last as long as 20 years. The wheels are thicker, the axis much stronger and the bearings of them are 3 or 4 times as broad, besides which one of them is made of hardened brass and the other of hard cast iron and they have holes through them to admit clean oil.

63. These reels are not to be screwed down horizontally upon the wood frame but must be fixed vertically with the wood pegs uppermost, which pegs must be taken out to put oil in them and then put in their places again to keep out dust and dirt.

64. The directions we gave in our former letter respecting them we desire may be pursued, and that after sufficient trial a fair and impartial report of their merits or defects may be made to us.

65. As the utility of the crossing machines seems to be universally admitted we have given directions that a further quantity of 300 sets may be executed. You will receive them by some of the first ships of the approaching season and we desire that you acquaint us what may

hereafter be a sufficient annual supply for us to send out to keep up the number required in use.

66. The article of raw silk forming so extensive a branch of our imports from your settlement we cannot too often repeat nor too strongly enforce our positive directions that our Board of Trade exert themselves, by every means in their power, to render it a beneficial article. This, we have before observed, can only be done by effecting both a reduction in its price and an improvement in its quality. We have already expressed our satisfaction in the reduction that has hitherto taken place, but we must at the same time inform you that the price is yet greatly too high to yield any profit.

67. As soon as we receive the result of the inquiries on this subject, mentioned in the 10 paragraph of the Board of Trade's letter of the 3rd December last, we shall take the subject into further consideration and communicate our sentiments thereon.

68. Herewith you will receive a commission appointing the Right Honourable Lord Macartney to be Governor General of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal and the Commander in Chief of all the Company's forces in the East Indies for the time being, together with John Macpherson and John Stables Esqrs. to be the Council at Fort William, also a commission appointing Lord Macartney to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the garrison of Fort William and town of Calcutta.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes / Nathl. Smith / L.  
Sullivan / John Manship / John  
Roberts / Jno. Michie / Thos. Fitz-  
hugh / George Cuming / E. Boehm /  
Jno. Townson / Step. Lushington /  
John Motteux / Lionel Darell / Thos.  
Parry / Jas. Moffatt / Wm. Mills / Thos.  
Cheap.

London,  
the 8th July 1785.

Endorsed 8th July 1785.

Company's General Letter to Bengal, per *Surprize* and *Earl Talbot*.



## LETTER DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1785

*Permission to draw bills upon the Court on account of the Company's Indian debts—amount of investment fixed so as not to cause a large drain on Indian revenues—strict adherence to the Act of 1783 prohibiting British subjects from helping foreigners enjoined.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

[1] We have taken into our serious consideration the large amount of debts owing by the Company to our servants and others in India, the alarming state of our credit there and the embarrassments in which our Governments are involved in consequence thereof. After a most attentive review of every particular of our situation, both at home and in India, we have resolved to grant you permission to draw bills upon us on account of our Indian debts, at the rates and to the amount herein after specified. We proceed therefore to give you our directions for carrying into effect this important operation. But previous to our entering on its detail we think it proper to remark to you, what cannot however escape your notice, how great a reliance we have shewn by this measure on your zeal, integrity and firmness in the administration of the government entrusted to you: we have adopted this plan from a decided opinion that our resources are adequate to its support. But we are not ignorant that misconduct in our servants may produce a failure of those resources, the consequences of which might be in the highest degree detrimental to our interests. We doubt not that this consideration will operate as an additional motive to you for the strictest and most unremitting attention to every circumstance which may diminish our expences, extend our resources and promote the welfare and prosperity of the province under our Government. Impressed as we are with the strongest conviction that by such a line of conduct alone we can hope to be relieved from the embarrassments under which we labor, and to answer the extensive demands to which we are liable, we call upon you to assist and co-operate with us in this great object. We have not been wanting to the ease and relief of our settlements in India but have even subjected ourselves to heavy burthens at home in order to establish their credit on a firm and lasting foundation. On your part we expect an equal attention to our interests and above all a rigid and impartial economy, assuring you of our determination to support you to the utmost in the discharge of a duty which we know to be difficult and arduous.

[2] In the discussion of the subject matter of this dispatch our attention was, in the first instance, directed to the amount of the demands which may be made upon us in India. The exact sum we found ourselves unable to ascertain with accuracy, particularly as a part of what appears on the statements, lately received, consists of arrears in accounts not finally adjusted, besides which we conceive there is just ground to expect that before the arrival of this letter some considerable part, particularly of the military arrears, will have been discharged out of the

surplus arising from our revenues after the reductions made by our servants in India, and those directed by us in our letter of the 11th April last.

[3] We have therefore determined to authorize you to draw bills upon us on account of our debts in India to an amount not exceeding six hundred lacks (600,00,000) of current rupees, at the terms and in the manner hereinafter directed; a preference to be given to the bondholders at our different Presidencies, and bills are, in the first instance, to be offered to them by public advertisement for the whole or any part of their debts which they may chuse to subscribe for this purpose. And a reasonable time is to be given (not less than six nor more than eight months from your receipt hereof) in order to allow the bondholders, at all the different Presidencies, to signify to you their acquiescence in the terms offered. And at the expiration of that period you are to draw bills upon us in favor of such bondholders as shall have so signified their acquiescence, taking care to receive from them proper acquittances for such parts of the bonded debt as they shall have subscribed.

[4] After this operation shall have been completed it is our intention that you should be allowed to draw for the remainder of the six hundred lacks on account of so much of the other debts, due at our different Presidencies, as arise either from arrears of fixed salary to any of our civil or military servants, to which such servants may have a clear and indisputable claim, not depending on any further investigation to ascertain their amount, or from any other arrears which have been fully ascertained after proper investigation of the nature and extent of the debt and the accounts or circumstances on which it depends, taking care not to include therein any supposed balances on accounts still depending or any sums which have not been completely liquidated before the receipt of these orders.

[5] And as it is our intention that an equal benefit of this operation should be allowed to our creditors at all our Presidencies you are to require our Governments there to transmit to you accounts of the amount of all such debts as above stated, the creditors on which shall have acceded to this plan within a limited time after notice to be given to them by public advertisements for that purpose at each Presidency, taking care to include in such account no debts which do not fall under the description above stated. When such account shall have been received by you, you are to add its amount to that of the debts under similar circumstances in Bengal, the creditors on which shall in like manner have signified to you their acquiescence, and if the whole shall not exceed the difference between the 600,00,000 above stated and the amount of bonded debt subscribed for, you are then to grant to such creditors bills to the whole amount of such debts on the terms hereinafter directed. But if, on the contrary, the amount shall exceed such difference you are then to give such creditors bills to the whole amount of such difference, at an equal percentage on the amount of their several claims respectively, and to receive acquittances from them for so much of their debts.

[6] All these bills, both for the bonded and the other debts, are to be drawn at an exchange of one shilling and eight pence the Bengal current rupee; and at a proportionable rate of exchange for the pagoda and Bombay rupee, to be settled by our Governor General and Council. They are to be made payable 548 days after date, with an option to the Company to postpone the full payment thereof on paying interest upon them half yearly, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from the date of their becoming due, and also on paying installments of not less than 10 per cent on the principal in every year after the 1st March 1790, unless it shall suit our convenience to discharge them by earlier or larger payments; and for the purpose of rendering those bills more convenient to the holders they are to be issued to each creditor in bills of five hundred pounds each, and one bill for the fractional part if any such shall be owing to him.

[7] The funds for these payments at home, and for those which are necessary to answer the demands which may be made upon us before the above period, must arise from an increase of our investment for that purpose beyond the sum allotted in our reports to the House of Commons. From every consideration which we have been able to give to the subject and on an examination of all the materials in our possession which might tend to elucidate it, particularly of the observation of our Accountant General at Bengal on our reports, we are fully convinced that if our revenues in India are properly administered there must arise a surplus, beyond our reduced establishments, amply sufficient for the purposes of this plan. On this head therefore we have only to represent our general injunctions, to which we cannot too often recur, that you observe the utmost economy in every department, and that you pay a proper attention to the due collection of the revenues.

[8] With regard to the investing this surplus and our other funds in India in goods marketable in Europe, the amount of such investments is a consideration of no little difficulty. We have attended to it not only with a view to the necessary supply of our sales at home, but also in so far as it may affect the prosperity of our possessions in India. We conceive that there is danger lest by bringing to Europe too large an amount of the revenues of those countries in goods for which no return is made we should occasion a drain which our territories may be unable to support; especially after the pressure of those distresses under which they have so recently labored. On the other hand we observe that our Accountant General in his observations states and we think with reason the mischief which might arise from any considerable reduction of the sums which have been annually distributed among the manufacturers of the Company and from which they have derived the means of subsistence and the reward of labor and ingenuity.

[9] We have therefore had recourse to the experience of former years. It appears that on an average of 5 years, ending in 1778, goods were invested from India for Europe to the amount of 120, and in the two last of those years to the amount of 130 lacks of current rupees, exclusive of what was sent to China, amounting to an average of the



same periods to £67,106 and £88,928, exclusive of what was sent by our servants and what was remitted through foreign companies on the capital of our servants or brought home in specie, of either of which we are able to form no exact estimate, although many considerations induce us to believe that they would amount to a very large sum. Under all these circumstances when we consider the means of remittance which this plan offers to our servants for bringing home their fortunes, and the consequent reduction which must take place in the trade carried on by foreigners on their capitals, we think that we incur no danger of too large a drain on our Indian possessions by directing an investment for Europe from all India to the amount of one hundred and fifty lacks of current rupees for the ensuing season, and the same for that which will follow it, unless orders to the contrary shall previously be received by you. The distribution of this to be as follows, viz.,

From Bengal	...	...	115 lacks of current rupees.
From Madras	...	...	25 lacks of current rupees.
and from Bombay	...	...	10 lacks of current rupees.

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150 lacks of current rupees.

[10] The funds to be provided by the usual amount of certificates, by the sale of exports and the remainder from the surplus of the territorial revenues; and this is to be exclusive of what you may be enabled to send to China.

[11] We trust that when you reflect how much the welfare of the Company is committed on the success of this plan it is unnecessary for us to recommend the utmost caution in the purchase of the investments in order that they may be such, both in assortment and quality, as may realize to us the greatest profit on our sales, and for this purpose we enjoin a particular attention to the Abstract of Indent herewith transmitted, requiring that our Board of Trade shall state to you at large their reasons for any deviations from it. We have stated that no allowance is made in the above sum for exports to China, and the observations of your Accountant General seem to point out that you have little expectation of being able to apply any considerable amount to that purpose. You must however be sensible that the sale of Bengal produce or manufactures there would afford the greatest assistance to the Company in carrying on that valuable and important branch of their trade, and you are therefore directed to use every exertion for that purpose.

[12] We think it also proper to remark that a great profit arises to the Company from the sale of Coast goods. It has been suggested to us that the amount of this article might be considerably encreased, and that funds for the purpose might be provided by sending to Madras an annual supply of Bengal commodities marketable there. We have also reason to believe that from both the Coasts there might be procured, in exchange for the manufactures of Bengal, goods adapted to the consumption of China, particularly sandal, pepper and cotton.

[13] To this subject we direct your particular attention as it would be an essential relief to our situation at home, could methods be found of supplying our China purchases from Bengal without draining that country of its circulating specie, which should on no consideration be admitted of. Every article also of internal trade by which the wealth of our provinces can be encreased so as to enable them to better to support the annual remittances to Europe must be encouraged and extended with the utmost care.

[14] As the plan now adopted rests, in great measure, on a consideration of the amount which we think can annually be brought from India, either by the Company or its servants, consistently with a due attention to the prosperity of that country, you are as soon as possible to acquaint us with your proceedings in consequence of these orders, and you are to wait our further direction respecting the steps to be taken for the discharge of capital on such of our bonded debts as shall not be subscribed into this plan, continuing nevertheless regularly to pay the interest thereon.

[15] With respect to the remaining arrears you are to lose no time in adjusting the several accounts on which they may depend, paying particular attention to the nature and justice of the different claims, and using every proper mode of enquiry to prevent our being charged with any demands for which a just consideration has not been received. We have given similar directions to our other Presidencies and shall, after receiving the final account thereof, transmit to you our further orders on the subject.

[16] As we conceive that this measure will preclude the necessity of drawing any bills upon us except for the execution thereof, we strictly prohibit your drawing bills on any other account except only the usual certificates to commanders of ships. And you are also to observe that as this plan has been calculated on a limited sum, you are to deduct from the above amount of 600,00,000 current rupees, which you are allowed by this letter to draw, the amount of any bills which may have been drawn by you or our other Governments in India, of which we are not now advised; for this purpose we have subjoined an account of the latest advices which we have received of bills drawn from any of our Presidencies.

[17] Our bonded debt at Bencoolen is to be included in this operation, and as that settlement is now become a subordinate to Bengal, the arrears there due are to be included in the accounts of Bengal arrears.

[18] As by the present arrangement we have made so equitable a provision for the remittance of the fortunes of our servants in India we think it is incumbent upon us to advert to the Act of Parliament of 1783, whereby it is enacted "that it shall not be lawful for any servant of the East India Company, or any other British subject residing in India, to lend any sum of money to any foreign company, or to any



foreign European merchants, or to purchase any goods in India on the account of such foreign company or European merchants, nor to be concerned in lending any such sums or purchasing any such goods, or furnishing such foreign company or European merchants with the credit of bills drawn upon the correspondents of any such servant or British subject, or any other person in Europe" under the penalties inflicted by the said Act.

[19] And therefore we direct you to attend to the provisions of the said Act in a more especial manner, and to see that they are carried into strict execution. Our servants would at no time be justified in departing from the regulations prescribed by Parliament, but would be less so now because they can have no pretence whatever to complain of any supposed hardship they might apprehend from a strict enforcement of the Act, as an easy and advantageous channel is opened, under the system we have here laid down, for the remittance of such fortune as may have been justly and honorably acquired.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes / Nathl. Smith / L.  
Sullivan / Thos. Fitzhugh / John  
Motteux / John Roberts / Thos. Cheap  
/ F. Baring / Paul Le Mesurier /  
Chas. Mills / Jas. Moffatt / Samuel  
Smith junior / Hugh Inglis / Jn.  
Townson / George Cuming / Jno.  
Michie / Thos. Parry / E. Boehm.

London,  
the 15th September 1785.

Endorsed 15th September 1785.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal.

Sent overland and per *Earl Talbot*.

No. 1.

45

## LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1785

*Campbell appointed Governor and Commander in Chief of Madras—troops in Vazir's dominions not to exceed the number stipulated—Colonel Cumming's regiment to be recalled from Oudh—relief for invalided Indian officers and sepoys—measures against desertion—Foster appointed Marathi interpreter—Major Palmer to stay if desired by the Vazir—Resident Johnson to be recalled from Hyderabad—Resident Anderson praised—Sindhia*

*opposed to an English Resident at Poona—the Shahzada to remain under British protection—Travancore King to be assured of speedy liquidation of his dues—trade in saltpetre and redwood unprofitable.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last letter to you was dated the 8th July and transmitted by the ship *Surprize*, which sailed from the Downs the 10th of the same month; duplicate whereof is forwarded herewith.

2. We have since received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

Secret Letter dated 31st January 1785.

Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection dated the same day.

Letter from Mr. Secretary Bruere dated 3rd January 1785.

Letters from Mr. Secretary Hay dated 31st December 1784 and 31st January 1785.

Letters from the Board of Trade dated 14th and 24th December 1784.

3. We refer you to the accompanying Separate Letter for our orders and directions on your letter in the Secret Department of Inspection dated the 31st January 1785.

4. Herewith you will receive a copy of the commission appointing Archibald Campbell Esqr. to be President and Governor, and the Commander in Chief of the Company's forces on the coast of Choromandel for the time being, together with Alexander Davidson and James Daniel Esqrs. to be the Council at Fort St. George; also a copy of the commission which we have granted to Archibald Campbell Esqr. as Governor and Commander in Chief of the garrison of Fort St. George and town of Madraspatnam.

5. We highly disapprove of the conduct of the Governor and Council of Bombay in receiving transfers in lieu of specie in payment for the certificates allowed the commanders and officers of the Company's ships, and therefore direct you to observe it as our positive order never to grant certificates to any persons on account of their privilege, unless they pay the full amount of such certificates into the Company's treasury in specie at the time of granting the same.

6. In your letter of the 17th January last you have submitted the following question to our determination, viz., "whether the Company or the Vizier shall be charged with the expense of the detachment commanded by Sir John Cumming", and we have taken an early opportunity of communicating to you our directions herein. As your late Governor

General, in virtue of the powers with which he was invested, had agreed with the Vizier to strike out the charge of this detachment from his account from 1st January 1785, we hereby direct that the said agreement be punctually adhered to.

7. In the final arrangement of the military peace establishment, which will accompany this dispatch, we have had in view the whole of the service which it will be necessary to provide for under your Presidency. Such part of that establishment as will be stationed in the Vizier's dominions will be paid by him according to the stipulations of the subsisting agreements. But it is our positive order that no greater number of troops be employed upon that service unless at His Excellency's particular application and request, and that all the troops so employed be considered as part of our fixed establishment which is not upon any account to be enlarged.

8. We cannot help expressing our regret that the opinion of your Board did not concur with that of the Governor General when the question concerning the recall of Colonel Cumming's detachment was under your consideration, as the expense of it will, before the receipt of this letter, amount to nearly the sum of £300,000 and we agree with Mr. Hastings that the brigade, which by treaty is to be constantly resident in those dominions, would be found fully adequate to their protection. We therefore direct that upon receipt of this letter not a moment be lost in ordering the recall of Sir John Cumming's detachment so that the Company may be instantly relieved from the burden of that enormous expense.

9. In your General Letter of the 15th March 1784 we were advised of your having given advanced rank, out of the regular succession, to several captains and lieutenants of infantry. With our orders before you of the 28th August 1782, in disapprobation of such promotions, we are extremely surprized that you should so easily have yielded to the recommendation of your Commander in Chief in making these appointments, and we do hereby repeat our directions that you do not on any pretence make similar appointments in future. We further direct that you strictly adhere to the terms of these appointments in not giving any additional pay or allowances to the officers so promoted until by vacancies in the regular line of the service they shall become entitled thereto.

10. We have perused with attention the several regulations you have established for the relief of such native officers and sepoys as have been invalided in the service, allotting them portions of waste lands, agreeably to their respective ranks, within the districts under the charge of the Collector of Boglepore. Upon the first view of the subject we are ready to pronounce the principles of that plan to be good, which has for its object the population and cultivation of no inconsiderable part of an extensive district and which, at the same time, provides for the future maintenance of such of the natives as may become invalided in our service, and do therefore approve of the same. But for our further infor-

mation we direct that you transmit to us regular returns not only of the number of which this invalid corps may consist but also the exact amount of their pay, in which must be included the charges for cloathing, the allowance to the *fougedarry* prisoners who were to be employed in clearing the ground and marking out the streets, and, in short, every other expence that may be incidental to the establishment. We likewise direct that you transmit to us, from time to time, an account of the progress which may be made in the building of the towns and in the cultivation of the land. And here we must express our entire approbation of your conduct for the regard you have shewn to the ancient rights of the zemindars, in the case stated on your consultations, by continuing to them the allowance of 2 annas per *bega* agreeably to the decision of the *canongoes*, whom you consulted on the occasion. A similar line of proceeding must always guide your decisions in whatever has relation to the privileges of native landholders.

11. We have hitherto as an indulgence to our military officers tolerated the appointment of their infant sons as minor cadets, but as we have great reason to believe this indulgence has been much abused, and we are thereby put to great expense, we have come to a determination to put a stop thereto and therefore not only direct that the pay and allowances of all those at present on your establishment be discontinued, from the receipt of these orders, but expressly forbid any such appointment in future. Whenever you wish to interest yourselves for the sons of deserving officers your recommendation of them to the Court will be properly attended to.

12. In consequence of some late advices from Bombay relative to the conduct of several of the commanders and officers in encouraging the soldiers of that garrison to desert and to enter on board the ships, and in order to put an end to a practice which is as detrimental to our interest as it is subversive of good government, we have enforced our former orders to the commanders in this respect in the most positive manner, and we hereby empower you to dismiss such of the captains and officers as shall, in future, be found to disobey them. We have likewise confirmed a regulation of the Bombay Government, that the commanders of ships shall on no account receive a single man on board at any of our Presidencies without first producing him at the town major's office in order to ascertain whether he be really a soldier or not; and we hereby direct that you adopt a similar regulation.

13. Since writing the foregoing paragraphs we have received the following advices from your Presidency, viz.,

*Per Valentine* ... Letter from the Governor  
General dated 10th January 1785.

*Per Hillsborough* ... Letter from the Board of  
Trade dated 27th January  
1785.



Per <i>Earl of Mansfield</i>	{	General Letter dated 22nd February 1785.	}	Dated 22nd February 1785
		Additional General Letter dated 23rd February 1785.		
		Secret Letter . . . . .		
		Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection.		
		Letter in the Foreign Department.		
		Revenue Letter . . . .		
		Letter from the Board of Trade.		

14. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts thereof as may appear to demand our attention.

15. In our letter to Fort St. George of the 11th April last, we expressed our favourable opinion of Mr. George Forster<sup>1</sup> on account of the knowledge he had acquired in the Oriental languages, particularly that of the Marattas, in order that he might be recommended to the notice of the Governor General and Council. And as we do not find that you have a Maratta interpreter on your establishment we direct that Mr. Forster be employed as an interpreter or, as occasion may arise, in negotiations at any of the Maratta *durbars*, with such salary and allowances as may be adequate to the appointment. It is not our intention to give Mr. Forster any specific rank on the Bengal establishment or to remove him from his standing on the establishment at Fort St. George; we merely wish to make him useful to the Company in such a station wherein he may have an opportunity of displaying those talents for which he seems so peculiarly distinguished.

16. The irruption of the Seicks, of which you advise us, leads to no other conclusion but the propriety of keeping a watchful eye over the Western frontier of our own provinces and those of the Vizier, which is the conclusion you properly draw from it.

17. In a preceding paragraph we have directed the immediate recall of the Futtu Ghur detachment. But as by your last advices we find that in consequence of these hostilities from the Seiks in the province of Rohilcund the Vizier had applied for the assistance of a part of this detachment, and that it was probable he would make a further request for the whole, we hereby order that the detachment be continued so long as the Vizier shall deem such continuance necessary for his own security; in which case the expense thereof must be carried to his account agreeably to the stipulations of the treaty of 1781.

18. But so soon as the Vizier shall cease to require the assistance of all or any part of that detachment we direct our former orders to be carried into execution, and even during the time the Vizier may call



for their assistance we hereby order that the whole expense of the staff, *batta* and other contingencies be immediately abolished.

19. And while upon this subject we think it proper to express our approbation of the principles contained in Mr. Macpherson's letter to the Vizier, bearing date the 18th February last; and we expect that the agreements made between the Vizier and Mr. Hastings will be invariably adhered to.

20. Upon the same principle we must express our opinion that if the continuance of Major Palmer with the Vizier is wished for by him it would be improper at present to recall him, and far less would it be proper to send any person to reside with him whose presence would be peculiarly adverse to his feelings.

21. We observe what is stated relative to the good opinion Mr. Macpherson entertains of Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cowper. Upon that subject we purposely refrain from giving any opinion whatever, for the whole transactions in Oude, for a considerable time past, will very soon receive our full consideration and it would be improper to anticipate any opinion at present.

22. In your letter of the 22nd February last we find it stated that the sum charged to the Vizier for the brigade at Cawnpore is short of the actual expense in the monthly sum of current rupees 33,760-12-4, and for the Futty Ghur detachment is current rupees 49,287-11-8, and for the regiment at Lucknow current rupees 984-3-10. It is not our intention to charge to the Vizier more or less than by the treaty he has stipulated to pay but we must at the same time direct that you make such arrangements in the corps serving in His Excellency's dominions, without diminishing their actual force, as will reduce their expenses within the sum stipulated for them.

23. As we consider the troops stationed in the territories of the Nabob of Oude as forming a strong barrier to our own provinces, and as in our Separate Letter of this date we have stated the established force which we think fully adequate to their defence, it is our meaning that those troops shall be considered as forming a part of such establishment.

24. We have considered the letter from Mr. Johnson, our Resident at Hydrabad, on the subject of a proposition made by the Nizam for a surrender of the Carnatick to him. We perfectly approve of the immediate and decisive negative you gave to such a proposition, and we are inclined to be of opinion that if you had, with equal decision, negatived the first suggestion of a surrender of our right to the Circars no such disgraceful overture would ever have been made to us by the Nizam. But you ought to have gone a step further and recalled Mr. Johnson from a situation where his injudicious conduct has been so remarkably displayed. He was sent there to conciliate the Nizam but in place of doing so his conduct must have directly the opposite tendency

by raising expectations which it is impossible for us, either in policy or consistently with national faith, to gratify, and the disappointment will naturally lead to disgust. Mr. Johnson must therefore be immediately recalled from his present situation but in such a manner as not to give just cause of offence to the Nizam, and our Residents at every court must be instructed to watch over the views and wishes of those with whom they are stationed but by no means to give any encouragement to a deviation from the treaties under which we at present hold our possessions.

25. If we listen to such remonstrances as those which the Nizam has brought forward there is no country in our possession which we can expect quietly to hold for a moment. The fundamental principle which we must rest upon is the preservation of treaties inviolate, and while we continue to act invariably upon that principle we shall be warranted to insist upon holding in our favor every right to which we are entitled by treaty.

26. We have attentively perused the three letters from Lieutenant Anderson, dated the 18th and 20th January and 1st February, addressed to the late Governor General. We greatly approve the ability and prudence which he exercises in the discharge of the duty of his station. His reasoning upon the situation and disposition of Scindia appears to be well founded, and every consideration suggested by him tends to confirm us in the opinion we have decisively formed of refraining from all unnecessary interference in the contentions of the Indian powers, while they leave us and our allies in the quiet possession of our territories. We must be careful observers of the movements of other powers, but never, without absolute necessity, take a part in their political contentions.

27. We observe from Mr. Anderson's letters that Scindia is extremely desirous that we should not have a Resident at the Court of Poonah. We are perfectly sensible of the importance of Scindia's friendship, and place great confidence in Mr. Anderson's prudence to preserve it, but it would be very impolitic in us not to have a Resident at Poonah when we have every reason to believe that other European powers will not be defective in treating the head of the Maratta Government with that mark of respect, and this consideration ought to be urged with Scindia as a decisive reason why we must adopt the same policy. Besides this we can never, consistently with our own dignity and importance in India, submit to be dictated to at what courts we shall or shall not be represented by Residents of our own appointment, and acting under our own instructions.

28. We likewise observe in Mr. Anderson's correspondence that Scindia expresses a great anxiety for the return of the Shazada to his father's dominions, but is decisive against his returning beyond the frontiers of ours or the Vizier's territories accompanied by any force to protect him. You will manage that whole business with prudence and circumspection, but we think it proper to apprise you that we have no wish,

in the present distracted state of the Mogul empire, that the young Prince should be induced to withdraw himself from under our protection. We can give no encouragement to any idea of engaging in warlike enterprizes for the purpose of re-establishing the ancient dignity of the Mogul empire but although it should be attended with some small expence to render the Shazada's residence comfortable within our or the Vizier's territories, we think that expense fully compensated by the advantages of the Shazada being safe and under our protection.

29. Our last dispatches from Bombay state the amount due to the King of Travancore for supplies of pepper at Rs. 3,40,238, and that from their hopes of discharging it being so distant they are precluded asking any further aid from him in this commodity. We therefore direct that you take immediate measures to enable the Bombay Government to assure the King of a speedy liquidation of this debt, either by instalments or at some fixed period, not very remote, that we may not be deprived of this article of our investment or be thought unmindful of the King's attachment to the Company during the late war.

30. The paragraphs we have submitted on the subject of the Honorable Charles Stuart will point out to you the opinion we entertain of the conduct of the members of the Board of Trade in resisting his pretensions to the first seat at that Board. The orders we have sent out, and the subordination we have established of all the Boards to the authority of the Supreme Government, will in future prevent all such hesitation in submitting to your authority.

31. We transmit you, a number in this ship's packet, an account of the quantities of saltpetre sold for the last 20 years together with the quantities delivered the Board of Ordnance during the said period. On comparing this account with the quantities we have now on hand, and what we may further expect by the ships of this and the next year, we find that, upon the return of the ships to be sent out this season, after making a suitable deduction for what the sales may take off during that period there will still remain on hand a quantity equal to upwards of three years' consumption. It is therefore our positive directions that after the receipt of these advices you do not, upon any account, lade upon any ship more saltpetre than the quantity expressed in the respective ships' charterparties.

32. The saltpetre has some years past come in bad condition but this year particularly so, the bags are absolutely perished with the dry rot so that the petre is in a manner in bulk. We direct that you pack the same in the strongest gunnies that can be procured and take every means possible to prevent the like complaint happening in future.

33. We have put up a quantity of the refined petre to sale by way of giving it a trial, but not a single bag of it sold. As the charge of refining the same in this country is so very reasonable (it not exceeding ~~ash~~ per quarter) we are of opinion the refining the same in Bengal

will not be attended with any advantageous consequences. We therefore direct that you immediately revert to the old mode of sending home the petre in the gruff.

34. Saltpetre has for many years been a losing article of our trade, and from the stock you will perceive we have on hand we have been under the necessity of lowering the price at our sales in order to bring it on a par with the foreign markets. That foreigners who can only be supplied with this article through the medium of ourselves should be able to undersell us therein is a matter that requires serious attention. We therefore direct that you transmit us a complete detail of information respecting the present state of the trade in this article, specifying particularly:

the places at which it is manufactured,

the medium quantity annually produced,

the cost attending its manufacture,

the manner in which your purchases are made, whether by contract or otherwise,

the price at which it is purchased, with the several charges upon the same from its first cost to its delivery on ship board for Europe,

the quantities annually allotted to each of the foreign nations with the terms and conditions on which they are supplied,

the quantities sent to Bombay, Madras or any other of our settlements,

the extent of the inland trade therein and in what mode the same is carried on with every other information you may be able to furnish,

in order that, by a due investigation of the subject, we may, if possible, adopt some mode for rendering this article a profitable branch of our commerce, or at least to prevent our losing thereby as we have hitherto of late done.

35. Redwood also falls under the same description as to its being unprofitable. The principle reason of its being introduced as an article of our investment was from its utility as dunnage in the lading of our ships, in consideration of which it was formerly stipulated with the owners to bring home 30 tons on each ship, which was the usual quantity laden, at half freight. We observe however that of late years notwithstanding the high freights at which our ships have been taken up, and that redwood now pays the same freight as other goods, you have increased the usual quantity of this article from 30 to 50 tons per ship. We are aware that you may have been led into this measure from the difficulties you have been under to find tonnage for our returning ships, but as we are in hopes this will not hereafter be the case we direct that you do not lade on any ship returning from Bengal more than the usual quantity of 30 tons.

36. We herewith transmit for your information and guidance the sale books with observations and remarks on the raw silk sold in the



March sale 1785, in the same manner as were before sent you for the September sale 1784, to which we require your most strict attention.

37. The observations made on the privilege silks that they are much superior to the Company's, better reeled, evener drawn and of a finer quality, cannot but strike us in a very forcible manner. The inference, which we naturally and unavoidably draw therefrom, is that it is not knowledge but zeal, attention and fidelity to the Company's interest that has been wanting in suffering such large quantities of silk to be sent home, of qualities that have afforded so much room for complaint as not only to endanger the reputation of that article at the Company's sales but also so materially to affect the prices.

38. As we wrote you so fully on this subject on the 11th April and 8th July last [and] have not yet received the report of the enquiries mentioned in Board of Trade's letter of the 3rd December preceding we shall not at present enlarge further than by continuing to repeat, in the strongest and most forcible terms, the directions contained in our beforesaid letters, assuring you that any deviation therefrom will not fail to draw forth the most severe and pointed marks of our resentment upon the offending parties.

39. We have made several payments to Messrs. Joseph and Moses Norsa for the sums advanced by them to the families of Francis Clerici and Pietro Sperra, spinners of raw silk, according to the agreement mentioned in our letter to your Presidency dated the 3rd May 1771, and also for advances made to the father of Paulo Erra, another spinner, pursuant to Erra's order, and we transmit accounts thereof in order that you may recover the amount from the said spinners if it has not already been deducted from their respective allowances.

We are,

Your affectionate friends,

Nathl. Smith/L. Sullivan/J. Man-  
ship / Jn. Townson / John Roberts/  
Thos. Cheap / Thos. Parry / Thos.  
Fitzhugh/Chas. Mills/Jas. Moffatt/  
George Cuming/Paul Le Mesurier/  
Hugh Inglis/F. Baring.

London,  
the 21st. September 1785.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 2.

## LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1785

*Standard establishment to be formed for each office—promotion by gradation—proposed boards and their respective powers—appreciation of Hastings' plan which led to increase in salt revenue—military hospitals—reductions in the customs—Committee of Grain—pensions—military*



*establishment reduced—measures to stop excessive use of liquors in the army—disputes between the King's and the Company's troops.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In our Separate General Letter of the 11th of April last, we transmitted to you our orders relative to the reduction of our different establishments; at the time that letter was written it was our intention to have made such a minute investigation into our establishments of every description as would have enabled us to convey our final orders upon each office, whether it should be continued or whether it should be reduced either in the whole or in part, but several important considerations have weighed with us to postpone that intention at present.

2. We found ourselves under difficulties to ascertain by a final decision many circumstances of detail which must be familiar to you; we found it difficult, and in many cases impossible, to discover the real present value of such offices as consist partly of fixed salaries and partly of perquisites or casual emoluments.

3. We found it impossible without a precise knowledge of the specific duties to be performed by the person possessed of each office to determine whether from such office all perquisites should be cut off and a fixed salary substituted in lieu thereof, or whether the duties of the office were of a nature to admit of fees or perquisites being taken as part of the lawful emoluments, with perfect safety to the public service.

4. From a consideration of these particulars, and perceiving that you are engaged in the execution of this important business, we have come to the resolution of leaving the first detail of it in your hands, reserving to ourselves the final examination and approbation of the establishments made up by you, which, when so made up, we direct you to transmit to us for our final revision.

5. By your letter of the 31st of January last, received by the *Berrington*, we have the satisfaction to learn that you are sedulously employed in this business and we look with earnestness to the final completion of it.

6. We have so often had occasion of late to enjoin you the strictest economy in the exercise of your duty upon the subject of establishments, that we feel it superfluous to add more. We cannot state our sentiments more forcibly than by recalling to your memory the words of your own General Revenue Letter, dated 5th May 1781, where you inform us that "In effect, the civil offices of this Government might be reduced to a very scanty number were their exigency alone to determine the list of covenanted servants, which at this time consists of no less a number than two hundred and fifty-two, many of them the sons of the first families in the kingdom of Great Britain, and every one aspiring to the rapid acquisition of lacks and to return to pass the prime of their lives at home, as multitudes have done before them. Neither will the revenues of this

country suffice for such boundless pretensions, nor are they compatible with yours and the national interests, which may eventually suffer as certain a ruin from the effects of private competition and the claims of patronage as from the more dreaded calamities of war, or the other ordinary causes which lead to the decline of dominion."

7. In one word we enjoin you to allow no such embarrassing reflection to occupy your thoughts in the consideration of your establishments; your sole rule is to be the exigency of the public service, and you are not to continue upon the establishment of any one department any one office or any one salary not warranted by the real exigency of the service.

8. By the late Act of Parliament the legislature has established by positive declaration the justice of promoting our servants abroad by gradation. For the purpose of carrying into effect this principle, as literally as can be done consistently with the good of our service and a necessary attention to the peculiar merits and qualifications of our servants, we would recommend it to your particular consideration how far it may not be practicable to divide the offices, you may find it necessary to keep up, into different classes according to their value; and if such a division can be made it will naturally occur to you to distribute the offices of highest value amongst our servants of the oldest standing, observing the application of the same principle to the other subordinate offices.

9. We are sensible that in the application of this principle, modifications and exceptions must become necessary; one will obviously occur that there may be servants now in possession of more valuable offices than is consistent with their rank, according to the rules we have suggested for your future distribution; and it may likewise very probably occur in many instances that persons thus prematurely promoted may be peculiarly well adapted for the situations they enjoy, and that the removal of them to make way for others would be of prejudice to our service.

10. In all such cases we are sensible it will be necessary for you to make exceptions, but we desire you to be particularly cautious not to extend this exception beyond its real intention, and above all not to keep up any unnecessary offices upon the plea of rewarding past services. We reprobate such a principle. Meritorious servants must look for reward as vacancies occur, and the exception we have warranted is confined to the case where the office is essential to be kept up and where you might be embarrassed by the arrangements we have made in deciding by whom it is to be held.

11. There is another general principle which we direct you to observe in the formation of your different establishments. We shall in the course of this dispatch point out to you the general branches or departments under which we intend our business in future to be conducted, and it will of course be your duty to appropriate a competent establishment for conducting the business of these respective departments. In making this appropriation you will be particularly attentive to the

peculiar qualifications of the servants allotted to each, for it is our intention that they should remain, as much as possible, affixed to those particular departments, and rise in them in regular gradation where no particular demerit occurs to interrupt it.

12. We conceive this principle, being adopted and adhered to, will be attended with important advantages. It will ensure our various departments of business being supplied with servants regularly trained in the business of the department to which they belong. It will be a great means of checking wanton and partial supercessions; neither is it justly liable to the objection of being a damp to the ardour and emulation of able and diligent servants, for there will still remain offices enough within the patronage of the Supreme Government, and not officially connected with any of the departments into which our business is divided, and we trust and direct that the Supreme Government do attend to extraordinary merit, in respect of abilities and diligence, in the disposal of the offices of this latter description.

13. In making up your establishments to be reported home for our final revision we desire you to attend to the following circumstances. We observe there are employed monthly writers and other native servants in the various branches of our service and we have reason to believe that many articles of business can be performed by them equally well, and at infinitely less expence than by any European servants. If this has been the foundation of employing them in our service the employing them merits our approbation, but if they have been employed to do the business of writers and others in our service we cannot pass over a practice of that kind without marking it with our disapprobation, as subversive of all order and introductory to every species of idleness and dissipation in our settlements. We mean not, however, at present to take any retrospective view of this practice but we desire you to advert to it in the formation of your establishments, with a view to the economy so requisite in our affairs.

14. You will recollect that you are now employed in forming a standard establishment for conducting the business of each office. We are perfectly aware that confidential situations in general ought to be filled up by European servants and accordingly a proper supply must always be kept up, but from what we have observed and learned upon good information we are confident that considerable saving of expense in our establishments may be effectuated by employing natives in copying papers and in other subordinate occupations, and we direct you to attend to this circumstance in reporting to us your advice what we ought to adopt as our standard establishment.

15. Although we have deemed it expedient to leave with you the detail of retrenchments we consider it equally so to inform you of the decision we have come to upon some important arrangements in the conduct of our business abroad.

16. Instead of the various subdivisions of departments, by which the business of our settlements is now conducted, it is our order that the whole detail should be carried on under the following branches:

- 1st The Board of Council
- 2nd A Military Board
- 3rd A Board of Revenue and
- 4th A Board of Trade.

17. The first of these boards is to be the same in its constitution as the Council, lately established by the Act of Parliament, for regulating the affairs of India, and with which, so constituted, the legislature has intrusted the Supreme Government of our respective settlements; in them is vested the general executive government together with a superintending power over every other department, subject only in the exercise of their authority to such rules and limitations as the legislature has prescribed. The Superior Council will still continue to act in its double department of Public and Secret, and the duties respectively belonging to each seem to be accurately defined in the minute of the Governor General and Council of the 23rd of September 1783, to which we refer you; except in so far as in the definition of the business of the Public Department it mentions "matters which regard commerce and shipping", our intention is that matters of that description are to belong to the Commercial Department.

#### *The Military Board*

18. We direct that this Board consist of 1st—the Commander in Chief, 2nd—the senior officer at the Presidency, 3rd—the senior officer of artillery, 4th—the Chief Engineer; 5th—the Adjutant General, 6th—the Quarter Master General and 7th—the Commissary General. It is not our intention, by the institution of this Board, to erect any military authority in your settlement in any degree independant of the superior civil executive government of the country, as vested in the Board of Council, but we are of opinion that much benefit will be derived from this institution in the detail of such business as is immediately connected with the regularity, the economy and the effective strength of our army.

19. It will be their business to examine into the state of the musters of the troops and to give their strictest attention that all the establishments are kept up to the full complement.

20. It will be part of their duty to be regularly informed of the amount, both in quantity and quality, of provisions, ammunition and stores of every kind in our forts, granaries and garrisons.

21. It must be their province to attend to the artillery, arms and implements of engineering, so that our settlements may be amply provided with every thing requisite for the complete equipment of an army on the shortest warning.



22. We only mention these particulars as an illustration to point out the nature of the duty to be performed by this Board, meaning that every article of military expenditure shall come under their revision and control; but we desire to have it explicitly understood that no part of the discipline of the army, nor the distribution of the troops, nor the application of the force is to fall under their authority, but all these particulars are to remain exclusively with the Supreme Government and the Commander in Chief respectively, neither do we mean that they are to have the power of issuing money or granting warrants for the issuing of money on any account or pretence whatever. We mean them as a board of reference and report, for the purpose of inspection and to prevent abuses and deficiencies.

23. Of reference from the Supreme Council upon all matters of military detail, so far as the expenditure of money is concerned, we therefore direct our Supreme Council to make use of the Military Board in this point of view, in order that the expenditure of the public money in contingent articles may be sanctioned by the opinion of the officers who constitute this Board; we do not mean that the Supreme Council are bound to refer such points for their consideration, or that they should be bound to act by their opinions when they have received them, but we do expect, that before any material issue of money is ordered on the head of military charges the Supreme Council will consider it as a useful check against extravagance, if material articles of military expenditure are previously considered and reported upon by officers whose situations and professions lead them to be particularly conversant in the knowledge of every article of military expence.

24. Although to report upon references made to them by the Supreme Council will form a very essential part of the duty of this Military Board it is not to be their only duty. We consider it as an essential part of the business of the Board and we direct that they particularly attend to the various branches of military detail to which we have alluded, and that they regularly, from time to time, report to the Supreme Council the state and condition of the respective articles of service falling under their inspection.

25. If there is any difference of opinion among them either in matters referred to them by the Superior Council or in points, the consideration of which has originated with themselves, such differences of opinion, with the grounds of them, are to be specially reported by them.

26. We direct that without delay you form, in concert with the officers who are to constitute this Board, such fixed rules and regulations for the conduct of their business as may effectually ensure the means of their being furnished with such regular returns from inferior departments as may enable them to conduct their business with dispatch and regularity; they are to report their whole proceedings to you and you are to transmit them to us in separate dispatches under the head of Military Department.



27. You will likewise determine what establishment may be requisite for the conduct of our business in their department, and you will, from our covenanted servants, allot a secretary and such other assistants as may be necessary, with allowances adequate to the duties and services to be performed by them; but in settling those allowances you will attend to the same spirit of economy which it is our intention to introduce into every other department.

28. We trust the regulations you shall frame and the instructions you shall give to the different servants under you connected with military business will be sufficient to bring before the Military Board every material of information necessary for them to be possessed of, but if it [at] any time either additional instructions or occasional orders shall be requisite they are to apply for them to the Superior Council.

29. After having thus laid before you such outlines of this business as may enable you to institute and regulate this Board, we think proper to conclude with a repetition of our explicit declaration that this Military Board is to possess no authority exclusive of and independent of the Supreme Civil Government, but are in all respects to act under you and through the medium of your authority.

*Board of Revenue*

30. Various plans have been devised and carried into execution within these fifteen years for the collection of the revenue. It is no part of our intention, at present, to enter into a discussion of the merit or demerit of these various plans, but thus far we are clear that the frequent variations of system which have occurred have been attended with much inconvenience and great expense. It is therefore full time to adopt a settled plan; and for that purpose we direct that there be a Board of Revenue to reside at Calcutta, to consist of one of the junior members of Council, without any addition to his present salary, and four other of the most intelligent of the senior servants of the Company.

31. To this Department is to belong (subject to the controul of the Superior Council) the whole administration, settlement, collection and receipt of every branch of our revenues together with the controul of the several officers concerned therein; but they are to have no power of issuing any money for any purposes whatever, except in consequence of orders or warrants from the Board of Council, in whom this authority is to be exclusively vested.

32. We think it unnecessary to detail the particular regulations by which you are to arrange this Department; we think it sufficient to refer you to the institution of the present Committee of Revenue, upon the foundation and principle of which we mean this Board should be established, and the general line of their duty to be the same.

33. The experience you have had of the conduct of your business

of revenue in the hands of the Committee of Revenue will enable you to judge how far the original regulations of that institution will admit of correction or improvement, and to that consideration your serious attention will be directed; and with respect to collectors and all other officers subordinate to the Board of Revenue you will, in concert with them, give a complete revision to the whole system of the establishment and will arrange it with due attention to the strictest economy and to the general rules which we have prescribed for your conduct.

34. We trust that long before this time you have made great and useful progress in this business, and if in the arrangements you have already made, either from motives of lenity or from your having been over persuaded by the importunity or remonstrances of our servants, your measures have not coincided with the rules we now prescribe you will revise your own conduct in those respects and conform yourselves to the orders we have given.

35. We think it almost unnecessary to add, as in justice to you we must suppose, that immediately upon the receipt of our letter of the 11th April last you will have, according to the terms thereof, reduced the whole of our revenue expenses within the sum of seventy two lacks of *sicca* rupees. The further orders and directions we now give are founded on a full conviction that by a steady adherence to the principles, we have directed you to observe a permanent establishment may be formed for the administration and collection of our revenues, considerably below the large sum of seventy two lacks of *sicca* rupees.

36. As an essential part of the conduct of this Board of Revenue will be connected with a steady adherence to just and uniform principles in their transactions with the zemindars and other landholders in the provinces under our Government, we have bestowed much attention upon that subject; to arrange a final system upon that head would certainly require other aids than that of general theory and would require the benefit of local knowledge, but being possessed, as we are, of much useful information by the able writings of our servants in India, who have discussed that subject, and having the still further advantage of the assistance of some of our most able and experienced servants who are now in England, we propose, in one of the early ships of this season, to transmit to you our sentiments upon the general principles which we conceive ought to operate in regulating the tenures of the landholders in India.

37. The proceedings of our Board of Revenue will of course be regularly reported to you, and by you transmitted to us in a separate packet under the head of Revenue Department.

#### *Board of Trade*

38. This Board forms the remaining department. The duties of it are to be the same as those of the present Board of Trade but very

different in their constitution, for in place of the inefficient principles upon which the present Board is formed we direct that a new Board be constituted, consisting of the remaining junior member of Council as President, without any additional allowance, and four other members selected from among the senior servants of the Company, to whom competent allowances adequate to the importance of their situation must be given, either by established salaries, in lieu of all emoluments, or by allowances ultimately depending upon their success in the sale of our exports and the purchase of our investments.

39. We do not positively direct you to adopt either the one or the other mode of provision for the members of the Board of Trade lest some objection, unforeseen by us, might occur; but we are much inclined to be of opinion that as well with the members of the Board of Trade as with regard to every other servant in any respect concerned in the purchase of our investments, or the sale of export goods, a considerable part of their emolument should depend upon the success of our sales in Great Britain, as by such a regulation their own interest would be deeply concerned in procuring the best qualities of goods in the assortment of our investments.

40. We direct that the Board of Trade, as now to be constituted, should be subject, like all other departments, to the superintendence and controul of the Superior Council. Many inconveniencies have arisen from the present Board of Trade having been formed and having acted upon other principles.

41. It is not our intention that the Superior Council should wantonly, or without urgent cause, interfere in the measures which the Board of Trade may see cause to adopt for the conduct of our commercial concerns, but if they shall be of opinion that there is urgency sufficient to call for their interference we direct the Board of Trade implicitly to obey; if after respectful remonstrance to the Superior Council they should still think proper to adhere to their original opinion the responsibility will then rest upon them and we shall be the ultimate judges.

42. The whole proceedings of the Board of Trade will, of course, be reported to the Superior Council and by them transmitted to us in a separate packet, under the head of Commercial Department.

43. You will consult the Board of Trade, as newly constituted, upon the proper establishment of servants to be allotted for the conduct of our commercial concern, taking care that on no account the expenses of our Commercial Department exceed the limitation prescribed by our dispatches of the 11th April last.

44. Indeed we must, in a most especial manner, inculcate to you the propriety of forming our commercial establishments upon the strictest commercial principles. The territorial revenues are a valuable

commercial resource if viewed in the light of an extended and beneficial enlargement of our capital. But they will ultimately be productive of the most baneful consequences, not only to our own commercial interests but to the general prosperity of the empire, if by means of these collateral resources a system of waste and extravagance should prevail in the formation of our commercial establishments altogether incompatible with the genuine principles of mercantile economy.

45. Upon this subject it only remains to add that notwithstanding the division of departments we have pointed out for the regular conduct of our business, if the Governor General should see cause to give his personal attendance at any of the boards he shall at all times be at liberty to do so, and when he does attend, shall preside at the board and have a casting voice in case of equality.

46. As we take it for granted you will instantly carry into execution the arrangements for the conduct of our business, which we have now ordered, it only remains for us, upon this subject, to inform you that all our subsequent dispatches, on that supposition, will be addressed to you in your Public Department, Secret Department, Military Department, Revenue Department or Commercial Department.

47. Dispatches under the two first addresses will, of course, remain with the Superior Council in one of its departments, Public or Secret, and orders will be given by them to the inferior boards, conformable to the dispatches they shall receive in their Military, Revenue and Commercial Departments.

48. By this means all correspondence will continue to pass through you; at the same time, by a subdivision of the detail of our business, the whole will be conducted with regularity, dispatch and economy.

49. Dispatches from you are to come addressed to us under the same heads of Public, Secret, Military, Revenue and Commercial, and the business of this Court will be arranged by us in a manner corresponding thereto, except so far as concerns business of a secret nature, which, in terms of the Act of Parliament, must be conducted through the medium of the Secret Committee.

50. We have long regretted an abuse which is now become so prevalent, and has gone to such an extent, that we must be peremptory in taking the most effectual measures to put an end to it—we allude to the practise of our servants having access to and transmitting home to their private correspondents such part of our records as they think proper. Our orders therefore are that no person but the members of the different boards shall have access to their records, except the Secretaries of such boards and those entrusted by them, and that no private copies shall be given thereof except to the President of each board if he shall desire it. To these persons so entrusted we shall look for responsibility, and if copies of any of our papers, correspondence or records shall be



discovered in the possession of any persons not warranted by the Government, either at home or abroad, we shall certainly take the most effectual measures in our power to discover by whose means the communication has been made and will dismiss from our service any person who shall be found guilty of disobeying these our orders.

51. Another practice, of a similar nature, likewise calls for our animadversion; many of our servants, possessing our most confidential situations, are accustomed to indulge themselves, without reserve, in corresponding, by their private letters, upon the public affairs of the Company: this is attended with many inconveniences, is directly contrary to our repeated orders, and we desire you will take the most effectual means to prevent it; and if any of our servants presume to continue in a practice so contrary to our wishes and orders we shall certainly mark our disapprobation by the severest tokens of our displeasure.

52. It is incumbent upon us further to inform you that a practice has sometimes prevailed, of late, of our servants abroad sending home public letters to the care of persons resident in this country to be delivered by them or not as in their discretion they shall think proper. We prohibit any such practice in future, and direct that all letters to us from our servants abroad be addressed directly to the Court of Directors and sent by the usual conveyance. No other will be received by us.

53. Your letter from the Secret Department of Inspection, dated 31st January last, has been received, and we think it proper, without delay, to remark on several of the particulars it contains.

54. The principles of reform laid down in the five first resolutions you passed, as contained in the 7th paragraph of your letter, have our entire concurrence, and it was upon similar grounds our directions for reduction were given in the Separate Letter of the 11th April last.

55. We are highly satisfied with the strict injunction, mentioned in the 11th paragraph to have been given by you to the Committee of Revenue, for reducing, as far as possible, the expenses of the collectorships and other offices and establishments dependent on that Committee, and we trust that by the exertions of the Committee, in consequence of your beforementioned injunctions, every requisite retrenchment has been or will be made. We avoid entering into a discussion of any of the particular reductions you mention your having made in the Revenue Department; but we desire you not to infer either approbation or disapprobation from our silence; for, having left the detail of the retrenchments, in the first instance, in your hands, we reserve ourselves till the whole is completed, and will not pledge ourselves upon a partial view of the subject to the continuance of any particular office, untill by a complete review of the whole of your work we are enabled to judge how far our expectations are fulfilled, and our orders completely carried into execution.



56. By the 21st paragraph of your letter we observe you have resolved to abolish three of the *adawluts* only, but we are of opinion more may yet be done on this head; the very large salaries given to the judges of the *adawluts* call for serious attention, and we rely on you to make every further reduction in this branch of expenditure that may be practicable; but we are the less anxious to be particular in that examination at present because we think the whole system merits revision. It is a question well worthy of consideration whether the *adawluts* should at all be distinct from the power of the collectors, and upon that subject we shall transmit to you our sentiment by some of the early ships of the season.

### *Salt*

57. The commission allowed to the Comptroller and salt agents you appear to have reduced exactly in the proportion ordered by us in our Separate Letter of the 11th of April, and we are pleased to find you have abolished the deputy agents; but we must particularly direct a compliance with our further orders for abolishing the salaries to the Comptroller and agents, as we are of opinion the commission will be a sufficient recompense for their services. For this reason also we disapprove of the resolution, contained in the 23rd paragraph of your beforementioned letter, "of taking into consideration the claims of the original officers, employed from the commencement of this institution, and ordering a reward to their services in having been the means of increasing the fund"; for as the commission drawn by those officers increased of course with the fund, and appears to have been a very ample allowance, so we cannot admit of the least necessity existing for making them any further pecuniary compensation.

58. In giving our negative to this resolution, because we think it an unnecessary expenditure, we desire to have it perfectly understood that we are fully sensible of the useful services of those concerned in the business of the Salt Department.

59. When we consider the alarming decline of the salt revenue in the year 1780, and for which no remedy seemed for sometime to present itself, we acknowledge ourselves indebted to the abilities and zeal of Mr. Hastings for a plan suggested and compleated by him, which not only retrieved that branch of trade and revenue but produced an effective benefit to the Company beyond our most sanguine expectation. It is also with pleasure that we remark the industry and talents displayed by Mr. Henry Vansittart, the Comptroller, in carrying the plan into execution.

60. Upon the subject of salt, as indeed upon every other article of revenue, we must take this opportunity of expressing our directions that the statements transmitted to us be made up at all times with accuracy and perspecuity. In your letter of the 27th of November 1782, when the first year was closed, you say that the nett "profit had exceeded twenty five lacks of rupees", and to [*sic*] proceed to

inform us that "the probable real increase of revenue to the Company will be near thirty lacks of rupees"; which we suppose is exclusive of the former produce of Government customs. Then in your letter of 4th of April 1783, paragraph 15, you state the profit, which you were well assured of realizing, at no less than rupees 57,25,673-15-0 (fifty seven lacks twenty five thousand, six hundred and seventy three). Mr. Larkins, in his remarks on the accounts laid by us before the Honorable the House of Commons, estimates the produce of the year 1785 at rupees 45,00,000 (forty five lacks), yet in your estimate of your receipts and disbursements for the year 1784/5, which required every possible degree of accuracy, you take it at no more than rupees 35,00,000 (thirty five lacks). From such different statements it is difficult to form any steady conclusion, and if we were to rest on them only we should be induced to dread a diminution of our salt revenue, but we are encouraged to the contrary expectation by the information of our servants lately arrived from India.

61. We think it incumbent on us to say, whilst we are drawing into our own treasury the profits on salt, which used to be enjoyed by contractors and merchants, that it is not our wish in general to assume to ourselves any articles of the internal trade of our provinces which can be conducted by private merchants, paying a suitable duty to Government. But in regard to the salt when individuals could not be found to engage in it on any terms, which could with prudence be accepted, and there was danger that the manufacture would be lost to Bengal, the attempt was judicious. Now that it has been rendered successful by employing the Company's capital we think the Company may, with great justice, continue to possess the emolument.

62. We would not therefore make any alteration in the mode of conducting this department farther than we have already ordered in our letter of the 11th April, with regard to the salaries and commission of the comptrollers and agents, which we here confirm.

63. If experience has proved that the plan mentioned by you in your letters of 22nd December 1781, paragraph 19, and 28th October 1783, paragraph 40, of putting the land revenue of the salt *mehals* under the care of the Comptroller of Salt has had salutary effects towards supporting this important resource, and at the same time in contributing to the satisfaction of the zemindars and *molunghees*, we authorize the same to be continued.

64. We trust that you will take sufficient care that there do not accrue any outstanding balances either amongst the manufacturers or the purchasers of the Company's salt, which, if not properly guarded against, might eventually cause a very serious defalcation from our apparent profits.

65. We desire you will inform us whether any and what loss the customs of the port of Calcutta may have sustained from your prohibiting the importation of all foreign salt into Bengal, and what market you conceive there will now be for the salt formerly manufactured upon our own possessions on the coast of Coromandel.

66. You will also acquaint us, from time to time, what is the price of salt to the retail merchants and consumer in various towns or *aurungs* in Bengal and Bahar. We approve the measures you adopted for disposing of 3,40,480 maunds, as mentioned in your letter of November 25th 1780, paragraph 28, and the medium price of 161 rupees per 100 maunds fixed for the salt of 1781/2 does not appear to us in any respect unreasonable.

67. We recommend it to your consideration whether the export of salt might not be encouraged and encreased to those countries, lying to the northward of Bahar, where rock salt brought from a great distance principally supplies the consumption. If the trade to that part of Hindostan could be promoted in the article of salt, even by allowing a considerable draw-back of the duty at the Patna Custom House, important advantages must unavoidably result to the Company's interest.

68. We understand likewise that a very beneficial trade in this article might be prosecuted within the kingdom of Assam for which returns might be made in gold dust and other articles. We wish as much as possible to open this channel. If the export trade of salt from our own provinces could be increased we conceive that it would not be difficult in a flat sea coast of such extent as that which lies between Balasore and Chittagong to increase the manufacture so as fully to keep pace with the exportation.

#### *Customs*

69. The reductions you have made in the Customs, so far as they go, appear to us commendable but they fall short of our orders of the 11th of April last, respecting the retrenchments in this department, by which you will perceive that the Board of Customs was to be entirely abolished, the allowances to the collectors reduced to their amount in 1776, and the whole charge of collecting the Government customs to be defrayed from the sum of 72 lacks of *sicca* rupees for the charges of the Revenue Department.

70. We therefore refer you to our former orders on this subject and positively direct that they be adhered to without the least deviation.

#### *Committee of Grain*

71. The establishment of the Committee of Grain we considered among the other temporary appointments which were to cease when their objects were obtained, and we accordingly directed that every such establishment made in consequence of the war or otherwise should be entirely reduced, but as you seem convinced that good consequences may result from a partial continuance of this committee we yield in this instance to your reasoning on the subject, and acquiesce in your Resolution thereon but we expect that the expense be regulated by the strictest economy.

*Poolbundy*

72. Respecting the charges of *poolbundy*, or repairing the embankments of the rivers, which you mention, in the 30th paragraph of the same letter, to have particularly recommended to the committee's revision we hope some reduction may be made in this article, but great care must be taken lest by an ill judged parsimony these embankments may be so much neglected as to endanger the cultivation of the lands, and if the zemindars are allowed to make the repairs themselves, as you propose and which may be highly proper, the committee must be very attentive that they punctually perform that duty.

*Civil Establishments*

73. We approve of the reduction you have ordered to take place in the article of Persian masters, but as you do not yet appear to have come to any final determination respecting the further retrenchments to be made in the civil establishments we can only, for the present, repeat and enforce our former orders on this head, that the whole of the civil charges shall not exceed the sum prescribed in our before-mentioned letter and the same with respect to the marine charges.

*Pensions*

74. We cannot approve of the pensions which, by the 40th paragraph of your letter, you have resolved to grant to the servants removed from or not in possession of offices. Such allowances could only have been made with the view of keeping our unemployed servants in India in a degree of affluence on many occasions greater than they would do even when employed.

75. Our final determination is that a senior merchant whose fortune is not equal to £10,000, ten thousand pounds, shall receive from us as much with the interest of his own money as shall yield him an annuity of £400, four hundred pounds, per annum. A junior merchant whose fortune is not equal to £7,500, seven thousand five hundred pounds, shall receive from us what with the interest of his own money will yield him an annuity of £300, three hundred pounds, per annum. A factor or writer whose fortune is not equal to £6,000, six thousand pounds, shall receive from us as much as with the interest of his own fortune shall amount to an annuity of £200, two hundred pounds.

76. We are sensible that these annuities will bear a small proportion to the incomes which many of our servants who will now be out of employ have formerly enjoyed, but the inconvenience of that circumstance is greatly removed by their not being obliged to reside in India till situations occur in which they can be employed.

77. We therefore authorize you to signify to our servants out of employment that they have our permission with their first convenience to



return to Great Britain, where they shall enjoy the above annuities according to their respective ranks, till the time that they are again put into employment: and let them always recollect it is not from a spirit of injuring them but from the necessity of our own affairs, and a desire to pay the debts and restore the credit of the Company, that we are obliged to have recourse to those measures.

78. We now advert to the steps you have taken relative to our military establishments, as stated from the 41st to the 55th paragraphs inclusive of your letter of the 31st of January, to which we have had occasion to advert in other particulars.

79. With regard to the measures you have taken, or may still take, for the reduction of those articles of military expense which you properly stile the extraordinaries of the army we leave that, as well as many other subjects of detail we have mentioned, to your completion before we can deliver our final opinion. We direct, however, that upon no account they exceed the limits we have prescribed in our letter of the 11th of April last; on the contrary we confidently trust that your exertions, acting in concert with the Military Board we have appointed for your aid, will tend to a very considerable reduction within that standard.

80. In our letter of the 11th April we intimated to you our determination to take an early opportunity of directing what we conceived to be an adequate military establishment in time of peace. We have accordingly done so, and after collecting the best information we could find, as well upon general as local knowledge of the subject, we have prepared and herewith transmit our scheme of a military peace establishment, and we enjoin you to carry it precisely into execution.

81. We conceive it to be of the utmost importance to the success of our military operations in India that the corps which compose the armies at Bengal, Madras and Bombay should be so formed as to enable them to take the field on the shortest notice and to act with effect whenever they shall happen to be united upon service; we have therefore resolved to arrange the whole military establishments according to one uniform system and to reduce the corps of every denomination, at each of the Presidencies, to the same strength in point of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates.

82. It is therefore our express orders that the following plan shall be immediately adopted for the military establishments at Bengal, Madras and Bombay, and that no deviation from the proportions settled by this plan shall henceforth take place without our particular orders for that purpose.

#### *European Troops*

That one regiment of European cavalry shall consist of:—1 colonel and captain, 1 lieutenant colonel and captain, 1 major and



captain, 3 captains, 6 lieutenants, 6 cornets, 6 quarter masters, 1 chaplain, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon, 2 mates, 24 serjeants, 24 corporals, 6 trumpeters, 6 hautbois, 324 private men; and that an allowance shall be made for six rough riders, exclusive of the pay attached to their station as corporals in the corps.

That one company of European artillery shall consist of:—1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 2 lieutenant fireworkers, 4 serjeants, 4 corporals, 8 gunners, 56 matrosses, 2 drums and fifers, and 2 *puckallies* or watermen to be allowed for the use of the company.

That 5 companies of the same strength shall constitute a battalion of artillery with the following proportion of field and staff officers:—1 lieutenant colonel, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 quarter master, 1 surgeon, 1 mate; and that an extra allowance be made for 1 serjeant major, 1 quarter master serjeant, 1 drill serjeant, 1 drill corporal, 1 drum major and 1 fife major exclusive of the pay attached to their respective ranks as serjeants, corporals, drums and fifes in the regiment.

That the strength of one grenadier or one battalion company of European infantry shall consist of:—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 3 serjeants, 4 corporals, 2 drums and fifes, 68 privates, and 2 *puckallies* or watermen to be allowed for the use of the company.

That two companies of grenadiers and six battalion companies of the same strength shall constitute 1 battalion of European infantry with the following proportion of field and staff officers:—1 colonel, 1 lieutenant colonel, 1 major, 1 chaplain, 1 adjutant, 1 quarter master, 1 surgeon, 1 mate; and that an extra allowance be made for 1 serjeant major, 1 quarter master serjeant, 1 drill serjeant, 1 drill corporal, 1 drum major and 1 fife major, exclusive of the pay attached to their respective ranks as serjeants, corporals, drums and fifes of the regiment.

#### *Native Troops*

That the strength of one troop of native cavalry shall consist of:—1 subaltern, 1 serjeant (Europeans), 1 *subadar*, 3 *jemauldars* (*jamadars*), 4 *havildars*, 4 *naicks*, 1 trumpeter, 1 farrier, 68 privates, and 1 *puckallie* or waterman to be allowed for the use of the troop.

That six troops of the same strength shall constitute one regiment of cavalry with the following commandant and staff:—1 captain commandant, 1 adjutant, 1 quarter master, 1 surgeon's assistant (Europeans), 1 black doctor.

The senior regiment of native cavalry to be commanded by a lieutenant colonel, the next in seniority by a major and the other regiments by captains commandant. And that an extra allowance be

made for 1 serjeant major, 1 quarter master serjeant, 1 drill *havildar*, 1 drill *naick*, 1 head farrier, 1 head trumpeter and 6 linemen, exclusive of the pay attached to their respective ranks as serjeants, *havildars*, *naicks*, farriers, trumpeters and privates in the regiment.

That the strength of one company of native infantry shall consist of:—1 subaltern, 1 serjeant (Europeans), 1 *subadar*, 1 *jemautdar* (*jamadar*), 4 *havildars*, 4 *naicks*, 1 drum, 1 fife, 68 privates, and 1 *puckallie* or waterman be allowed for the use of the company.

That two companies of grenadiers, and six battalion companies of the same strength shall constitute one battalion of native infantry with the following commandant and staff officers:—1 captain, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon's assistant (Europeans), 1 black doctor; and that an extra allowance be made to 1 serjeant major, 1 quarter master serjeant, 1 drill *havildar*, 1 drill *naick*, 1 drum and fife major, exclusive of the pay attached to their respective ranks as serjeants, *havildars*, *naicks*, drums and fifes.

That one company of lascars, for the service of the artillery, shall consist of:—1 *sarang*, 2 1st *tindalls*, 2 2nd *tindalls*, 56 privates, and 1 *puckallie* or waterman to be allowed for the use of the company.

It is our express orders that all establishments respecting native artillery, or *golandauze*, shall cease and that the officers and men of those corps shall be incorporated into the *seapoy* battalions, or into the *lascars* attached to the artillery. It is likewise our express orders that none of the natives from the interior country of Hindostan shall henceforth be taught the exercise of artillery, and that none shall be enlisted for the corps of artillery *lascars* but such as are actually seamen or boatmen, settled within the limits of the different Presidencies.

#### *Peace Establishment for Bengal*

- 3 battalions European artillery
- 6 battalions of European infantry
- 2 troops of native cavalry
- 36 battalions of native infantry
- 30 companies of *lascars*
- And a corps of engineers consisting of:
  - 1 lieutenant colonel
  - 1 major
  - 4 captains
  - 8 lieutenants
  - 8 ensigns

The battalions of native infantry are to be formed into 6 brigades, each brigade to consist of 6 battalions of *sepoys*, with 1

lieutenant colonel and 1 major attached as the necessary field officers for conducting the military duties and discipline of the brigade.

When the battalions of European and native infantry are commanded to take the field for service they are to be equipped with two field pieces each; 2 *tindals* and 28 *lascars* are also to be attached for working the artillery, and 1 European non-commissioned officer and 8 privates for pointing the guns and taking care of the ammunition and stores.

Whenever a brigade is ordered to be detached on service the grenadiers of the battalions composing the brigade are to be formed into two battalions for covering the flanks of the brigade, and to have two battalion guns attached to each with a proper proportion of European artillery and artillery *lascars*. On this principle, exclusive of the field train, 16 field pieces, 1 company of European artillery and 4 companies of *lascars* will complete the brigade for immediate service.

#### STAFF

General Staff	...	{	1 adjutant general as lieutenant colonel 1 quarter master general as lieutenant colonel 1 deputy adjutant general as major 1 deputy quarter master general as major	
Brigade Staff	...	{	6 lieutenant colonels attached to the brigade 6 majors attached to the brigade 6 brigade majors as captains 6 quarter masters of brigade as majors	
Garrison Staff	...	{	1 fort major 1 fort adjutant	{ Fort William
General Hospital		{	7 surgeons 45 assistants	

#### Madrass

2 battalions of artillery  
4 battalions of European infantry  
1 regiment of European cavalry  
5 regiments of native cavalry  
36 battalions of native infantry  
30 companies of *lascars*

And a corps of engineers consisting of:

1 lieutenant colonel  
1 major  
4 captains  
8 lieutenants  
8 ensigns

The battalion of native infantry are to be formed into 6 brigades, each brigade to consist of 6 battalions of *sepoys*, with 1 lieutenant colonel and 1 major attached as the necessary field officers for conducting the military duties and discipline of the brigade.

When the battalions of European and native infantry or the regiments of cavalry are commanded to take the field for service they are to be equipped with two field pieces each; 2 *tindals* and 28 *lascars* are also to be attached for working the artillery, and 1 European non-commissioned officer and 8 privates for pointing the guns, and taking care of the ammunition and stores.

Whenever a brigade is ordered to be detached on service the grenadiers of the battalions composing the brigade are to be formed into 2 battalions for covering the flanks of the brigade, and to have two battalion guns attached to each, with a proper proportion of European artillery and artillery *lascars*. On this principle, exclusive of the field train, 16 field pieces, 1 company of European artillery and 4 companies of *lascars* will complete the brigade for immediate service.

#### STAFF

General Staff	...	{	1 adjutant general as lieutenant colonel 1 quarter master general as lieutenant colonel 1 deputy adjutant general as major 1 deputy quarter master general as major
Brigade Staff	...	{	6 lieutenant colonels attached to the brigade 6 majors attached to the brigade 6 brigade majors as captains 6 quarter masters of brigade as lieutenants
Garrison Staff	...	{	1 fort major 1 fort adjutant
Hospital Staff	...	{	6 surgeons 52 mates

#### Bombay

- 1 battalion of artillery
- 2 battalions of European infantry
- 12 battalions of native infantry
- 10 companies of *lascars*

And a corps of engineers consisting of:

- 1 lieutenant colonel
- 1 major
- 2 captains
- 4 lieutenants
- 4 ensigns

The battalions of native infantry are to be formed into two brigades, each brigade to consist of 6 battalions of *sepoys* with 1 lieutenant colonel and 1 major attached as the necessary field officers for conducting the military duties and discipline of the brigade.

When the battalions of European and native infantry are commanded to take the field for service they are to be equipped with two field pieces each; 2 *tindals* and 28 *lascars* are also to be attached for working the artillery, and 1 European non-commissioned officer and 8 privates for pointing the guns and taking care of the ammunition and stores.

Whenever a brigade is ordered to be detached on service the grenadiers of the battalions composing the brigade are to be formed into two battalions for covering the flanks of the brigade, and to have two battalion guns attached to each, with a proper proportion of European artillery and artillery *lascars*. On this principle, exclusive of the field train, 16 field pieces, 1 company of European artillery and 4 companies of *lascars* will complete the brigade for immediate service.

#### STAFF

General Staff	...	{	1 deputy adjutant general as major 1 deputy quarter master general as major
Brigade Staff	...	{	2 lieutenant colonels attached to the brigade 2 majors attached to the brigade 1 brigade major as captain 1 brigade quarter master as lieutenant
Garrison Staff	...	{	1 fort major 1 fort adjutant
Hospital Staff	...	{	3 surgeons 14 assistants

83. Whenever it becomes necessary to increase the army at any of the Presidencies, beyond what is settled for the peace establishment, no alteration must take place in the proportion of officers etc., settled for the different corps of the Presidency. On such occasions complete companies are to be added to the artillery and artillery *lascars*, complete regiments to the cavalry, and complete battalions to the European and native infantry. Draughts are to be made from the old corps as a foundation for the additional levies in proportion to the extent of these levies; and the old corps will make good their respective deficiencies in consequence of these draughts by recruits; so that the same proportion for one company of artillery and artillery *lascars*, and of one regiment of cavalry and one battalion of European or native infantry, shall invariably remain the same, in the old and the new corps.



84. Upon this subject it will be observed that the military establishment we have directed for the other settlements make no provision for an establishment at Fort Marlborough. In our letter of the 11th April last we intimated to you our determination of reducing the Presidency of Bencoolen to a Residency in like manner as it was from the year 1754 to 1759, and to place it under your Government. We further direct that whatever military establishment may be necessary to be stationed there shall be a detachment from your army, and in all respects form a part of it.

85. Every circumstance indicates the propriety of this arrangement, and our attention has been in a peculiar manner called to it by an application of the 10th August 1784, made to us by our officers on the Bencoolen establishment, the grounds of which appear to be perfectly warranted, and it does not occur to us that any such radical remedy can be applied to their complaints as by the arrangement we have now suggested. We transmit to you a copy of their representation.

86. We have been advised that one company of artillery, two companies of European infantry and four companies of native infantry would be a proper establishment to be stationed at Fort Marlborough, and if you are of opinion that the army we have directed to be kept up under your establishment will not admit of so large a detachment from it, consistently with the safety of our provinces, we authorize you to make an addition to the Bengal establishment, as above directed, to the extent of what may be necessary for the Fort Marlborough detachment.

87. In reducing your army to the establishment now prescribed by us we are aware that there must be a considerable number of supernumerary officers of different ranks. We lament the loss of the service of so many able and gallant officers and shall take the earliest opportunity which offers of restoring them to it. In the mean time we direct that all European officers who may fall under the reduction be allowed the half pay of their respective ranks and be permitted to return home to their native country, where they shall enjoy that allowance until the opportunities offer of restoring them to full pay on the establishment.

88. With regard to native officers we think it improper to permit them to be disbanded from our service upon such terms as may leave them any temptation to betake themselves to any other service; possessed as they are of military skill and discipline acquired in our army, we think a temporary expense, though considerable, well bestowed to prevent such an evil. We therefore direct you to retain them upon full pay and to take the earliest opportunity of restoring them to their former situations. Perhaps some of these native officers may wish to be provided for by an allotment of waste lands at Boglepore, upon the same terms as the invalided officers, if so, we think it would be a very unexceptionable mode of providing for them and we suggest it for your consideration.

*Military Hospitals*

89. Conceiving the care of our sick or wounded soldiers to be an object dictated as well by sound policy as by humanity we have bestowed particular attention in examining that subject; and the investigation has pointed out to us the propriety of transmitting to you precise regulations for the conduct of our hospitals. These regulations have in view to remove every chance of the troops suffering from a want of proper attendance, comfortable accommodations, good medicines, diet, hospital necessities etc., and to establish such a controul over the several departments of the hospital as will limit the annual expenses to what are merely necessary and ascertain the charges with accuracy. They have likewise in contemplation to abolish the absurd practice of allowing surgeons to benefit in proportion to the number of sick under their care, or to derive any advantage in consequence of the remaining a length of time in the hospitals which, under such a system, must be too often the case to the prejudice of the service and to the great disgrace of humanity. But at the same time that these regulations are particularly directed against any degree of abuse they hang out encouragement to men of abilities and character to prosecute the medical line in India by establishing reasonable prospects to individuals and a regular progression of rank from the highest to the lowest stations in the Company's service.

90. These regulations are contained in two papers which accompany this. One, entitled "Regulations respecting Military Hospitals in India", the other, entitled "Forms and Regulations for the Apothecary in charge of the Medicine Stores at the different Presidencies in India."

91. Our military establishments even upon the scale to which they are reduced, joined to the proper supply of our hospitals, will require a very considerable number of surgeons and assistants. But from the latest returns we have seen, we take it for granted you have at your settlement a sufficient number for all the purposes we have directed, and likewise as many more as may afford a supply to our other settlements, if any shall be required by any of them. We observe that you have appointed a great number of assistant surgeons at Bengal since the year 1781, without our permission. This is a practice which we prohibit in future.

92. As in the present state of our affairs we cannot admit of any unnecessary expense we have come to a resolution and direct that no more surgeons or assistant surgeons than those necessary for our several hospitals and establishments shall draw pay or allowances from the Company. The supernumeraries must depend on their private practice until vacancies fall, as it was not our intention in permitting surgeons of any description to proceed to India to practice in their profession that they should immediately on their arrival receive pay unless appointed to some station in consequence of vacancies.

93. From this restriction however it is our intention to exempt such as have been in actual service with the troops or in detachments

during the war, and we consent to their drawing their pay and half *batta* while unemployed.

94. When in our letter of the 16th March 1784, we disapproved of the appointments you had recently made of 24 assistant surgeons, and nominated others in their room, we were led to imagine that your establishments were really so many deficient; as therefore the persons, so nominated by us, do not stand precisely in the same predicament with those whom we merely permitted to proceed to India to practice in the way of their profession, and to succeed only upon actual vacancies, and may conceive themselves entitled to some compensation in consequence of the above orders, we direct that you grant them a moderate allowance until they shall succeed to vacancies upon the reduced establishment.

95. We have already, in our letter of the 10th of December 1784, directed you to give every assistance to Lieutenant General Sloper in his endeavors to suppress the excessive use of spirituous liquors among the soldiery and the profits which, there is too much reason to believe, have resulted from it to the commanding officers at different stations.

96. We think that the situation of the cantonments affords you considerable assistance in the accomplishment of this point, which would be attended with little difficulty if proper stipulations were made with the contractor for the supply of this article respecting the quantity to be delivered by him, and if all other persons were prohibited from sending any spirituous liquors within the cantonments.

97. We are well aware that no regulation of this sort can be carried into effect while the commanding officer, who should exercise the controul in this respect, is permitted to derive a pecuniary advantage from promoting the consumption, and at the same time debasing the quality of this destructive article. We are inclined however to hope that this practice has by no means been general, and we direct that in future proper measures be taken for enforcing, with the utmost rigour, that part of the eighth section of the articles of war by which such profits are expressly forbidden.

98. It is impossible for us to enter further into the detail of this subject, which must be left to your zeal and local knowledge, but we think it necessary again to direct your early attention to it as a point which we feel to be of the highest importance, both to the health and discipline of our army.

99. It has been suggested to us that alterations might be made in the present mode of cloathing the European soldiers, which would conduce much to their convenience and health without being productive of any increased expense to the Company. We direct you therefore to take this subject under your consideration, and having obtained such information as shall be necessary to transmit us your sentiments thereon.

100. Another great object of military arrangement which remains to be finally settled is the prevention of those jealousies and disputes which have arisen between His Majesty's troops serving in India and our servants both in the civil and military lines. This matter is now under our serious consideration. It is a subject of much delicacy in the different points which are involved in it, but we entertain the strongest hopes of being able to bring it to such a conclusion as may be satisfactory to all who are concerned in it and beneficial to the national interests.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes / Nathl. Smith / L.  
Sullivan / J. Manship / Jn. Townson /  
John Roberts / Tho. Cheap / Thos.  
Parry / Thos. Fitzhugh / Chas. Mills /  
Jas. Moffat / George Cuming / Paul Le  
Mesurier / Hugh Inglis / F. Baring.

London,  
the 21st September 1785.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal.  
No. 3.

47

## LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1785

*The commanders of Company's ships required to sign a bond—contract for Madeira wine—sword presented to Colonel Calhcart for distinguished gallantry at Cuddalore.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote to you overland on the 15th September last, and by the ship *Earl Talbot*, via Fort St. George, under date the 21st of the same month.

2. We have since received the following advices from your Presidency viz.,

General Letters dated 26th February and 1st March 1785.

Secret Letter dated 2nd March 1785.

Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection dated the same day.

Letters from the Board of Trade dated 18th, 22nd and 25th February 1785.

General Letters dated 23rd March and 28th April 1785.

Abstract of the Secret Letter dated 25th March, and

Secret Letters dated 29th April and 16th May 1785.



Letters in the Secret Department of Inspection dated 25th March and 29th April 1785.

Revenue Letter dated 23rd March 1785.

3. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts thereof as may appear to demand our attention.

*Public Department*

4. We were very much surprized to hear from our President and Council at Bombay that, notwithstanding our repeated orders, the most exorbitant sums have been constantly demanded by the commanders of our freighted ships for the passage of persons to India. In order therefore to put a stop to such unwarrantable exactions we have caused a new bond to be prepared, which will be executed by all the commanders previous to their departure from England (copies are enclosed for your information), and we strictly enjoin you to make a particular enquiry whether any sums have been paid, other than allowed by the said bond for the passage and accommodation of persons at the commander's table, stating the matter fully to us and taking depositions if necessary, that, upon the return of the ships to Europe, we may take proper notice of such commanders as may not pay implicit obedience to our regulations or answer the penalty of the bond which they have entered into with the Company.

5. Being satisfied with the abilities of Mr. John Hettson, who was formerly a pilot in our service at your Presidency, we have permitted him to return to Bengal, and direct that upon his arrival he be appointed the youngest pilot in our marine service on your establishment.

6. The following persons have obtained our license to proceed to India as free mariners, viz., Thomas Wightman, Robert Hewitt, James Bremer, Stephen Newton, William Keir, Reuben Johnson, Joseph Ord.

7. Mr. Alexander Williamson, an assistant surgeon on your establishment, who came to England with your permission as surgeon of the ship *Southampton* has our leave to return to his station.

8. We have permitted Messrs. John Thomas Atkinson and John Richardson to proceed to Bengal to practise as barristers in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

9. In our letter of the 27th January last, we advised you that the friends of Mr. Schultz had signified to us that he was desirous of returning from Bengal, and at their request we directed that he be accommodated with a passage to Europe on board one of the Company's ships, but it since appearing that Mr. Schultz's desire was to proceed to Bengal to settle his affairs, and he having requested our permission for that purpose, we have granted him leave accordingly.

10. Mr. John Smith has our leave to proceed to Bengal and remain there three years to settle his affairs.



11. Mr. George Carter and Mrs. Diana Hill, portrait painters, have our leave to proceed to India to practise in their profession.

12. In our letter of the 11th April last, we acquainted you that we had permitted Mr. David Brown and his wife to proceed to Bengal to superintend the education of the orphans of the officers and soldiers on your establishment, and having advanced Mr. Brown £315 for the passage of himself and his wife we transmit the bond given by him and Major Archibald Mitchell for the repayment of that sum into our treasury within sixty days after his arrival in Bengal, in order that the amount may be recovered agreeable to the tenor thereof. Mr. and Mrs. Brown proceeded on a Danish ship.

13. Our Council of Supracargos at Canton for managing the Company's concerns in China this season consists of the following gentlemen, viz., Mr. William Henry Pigou, Abraham Roebuck, Henry Browne, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce, Charles Edward Pigou, Henry Lane, David Lance, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Kuyck Van Mierop, William Fitzhugh, Richard Hall, Samuel Peach, Hugh Parkin.

*Military Department*

14. We have permitted the following military officers to return to their rank on our establishment at your Presidency, viz., Lieutenant Colonel Robert Stewart, Captain John Hilliard, [ and ] Lieutenant Robert Kennan.

15. On the 19th November 1784, we came to the following unanimous resolution, viz., "That this Court do request of Colonel Cathcart that he will accept from the East India Company a sword of the value of one hundred guineas in testimony of his gallant and distinguished behaviour in storming the French redoubt near Cuddalore on the 13th June 1783."

16. Colonel Cathcart having sailed for India before a sword we had ordered to be made in consequence of the above resolution could be presented to him we have sent it to Fort St. George under the care of Captain Pierce of the ship *Halsewell*, and having given directions to the President and Council of that settlement to forward it to you in case Colonel Cathcart should be in Bengal, in order that you may present the same to him in our name.

17. By the accounts lately received from Fort St. George we observe that the full allowance for passage money had been paid to Lieutenant Scott of His Majesty's 98th Regiment for whose passage Captain Price of the *Ceres* had been paid by us. In consequence of our ignorance of this circumstance the expense of Lieutenant Scott's passage has been twice defrayed by the Company. Therefore in order to prevent the like in future we strictly enjoin you not to grant any order to the commanders of the Company's ships to carry any King's officer to Europe to be paid by us for their passage until every enquiry has been made whether any sums have been paid them at any of our settlements on that account.

18. We shall send 1500 recruits for the service of your Presidency by the ships of this season.

*Commercial Department*

19. The names of the ships taken up for India and China for the ensuing season are as follows, viz.,

Ships			Tons	Commanders	
<i>Sullivan</i>	...	...	755	Captain Robert Pouncey	Madeira Coast and China
<i>General Goddard</i>	...	...	755	Thomas Foxall	
<i>Fort William</i>	...	...	755	George Simson	
<i>Foulis</i>	...	...	755	George Blachford	Coast and China
<i>Valentine</i>	...	...	755	Thomas Wall	
<i>London</i>	...	...	758	John Eastabrooke	
<i>Ponsborne</i>	...	...	758	James Thomas	
<i>Contractor</i>	...	...	758	William Mackintosh	
<i>Middlesex</i>	...	...	755	John Rogers	
<i>Europa</i>	...	...	755	Augustus Joseph Applegath	
<i>Worcester</i>	...	...	755	Captain John Hall	
<i>Vansittart</i>	...	...	758	Richard Lewin junior	
<i>Earl of Mansfield</i>			758	Brodie Hepworth	Bencoolen and China
<i>York</i>	...	...	758	William Huddart	St. Helena and China
<i>Neptune</i>	...	...	758	George Scott	China
<i>Stormont</i>	...	...	723	George Curtis	
<i>Bridgewater</i>	...	...	755	William Parker	
<i>Pitt</i>	...	...	755	George Cowper	
<i>Lord North</i>	...	...	758	John Bartlett	
<i>Southampton</i>	...	...	758	William Hall	
<i>Earl Cornwallis</i>	...	...	755	Thomas Hodgson	
<i>Pigot</i>	...	...	758	Geo. Ballantyne	
<i>Royal Charlotte</i>	...	...	758	Josiah Pryce	
<i>Royal Bishop</i>	...	...	720	William Mears	
<i>Kent</i>	...	...	755	Captain Richard Hardinge	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Walpole</i>	...	...	758	Henry Churchill	Madeira, Coast and Bay
<i>Manship</i>	...	...	755	Charles Gregorie	
<i>Phoenix</i>	...	...	755	James Rattray	Coast and Bay
<i>Halsewell</i>	...	...	758	Richard Pierce	
<i>Ganges</i>	...	...	758	James Williamson	
<i>Berrington</i>	...	...	755	Thomas Ley	
<i>Hillsborough</i>	...	...	755	William Hardcastle	
<i>William Pitt</i>	...	...	755	Charles Mitchell	
<i>Earl of Oxford</i>	...	...	758	John White junior	

Ships		Tons	Commanders	
<i>Queen</i>	... ..	755	Peter Douglas	Madeira, Bombay and Bengal
<i>Rockingham</i>	... ..	755	John Atkinson	} Bombay
<i>Besborough</i>	... ..	870	Alexander Blanshard Montgomerie	

20. All the above ships are taken up at £26 per ton freight to China direct; at £27 per ton to St. Helena and China, Bencoolen and China, and Coast and China; at £28 per ton to Bombay; and at £29 per ton to Coast and Bay. In all other respects they are entertained on the same terms as the ships of last season as will appear by reference to their respective charterparties.

21. The consignments to our several settlements in India and China, this season, will principally consist of the following particulars, viz.,

For Bengal

Cloth 338 bales, long ells 50 bales, broad long ells 40 bales, tabbinets 2 boxes, lead 50 tons, iron 50 tons, copper 350 tons.

For Fort St. George

Cloth 452 bales, long ells 10 bales, tabbinets 2 boxes, lead 50 tons, iron 50 tons, copper 200 tons.

For Bombay

Cloth 508 bales, long ells 90 bales, broad long ells 20 bales, tabbinets 2 boxes, lead 50 tons, iron 50 tons, steel 30 tons, copper 270 tons.

For the Bussora market

Cloth 77 bales, long ells 150 bales.

For Fort Marlborough

English beef 40 hogsheads, 29 tierces of Irish pork, flour 10 tons, iron 10 tons, and 200 musquets.

For China

Cloth 1500 bales, long ells 3000 bales, camblets 17 bales, tabbinets 2 boxes, lead 2040 tons.

22. We have contracted with Mr. John Kingston on behalf of Messrs. Ahmuty and Company, for 180 pipes of the best Madeira wine, (ordered very near two years ago for the Bengal market) at £27 per pipe clear on board, the pipes to be of the best Hamburgh staves and to contain 115

gallons each, also with Messrs. Paul Amsinck and Son, on behalf of Messrs. Allen and Company, for 326 pipes of the best Madeira wine at £26 per pipe, of the same materials and gauge for our different settlements in India and China.

23. The persons with whom we have made these contracts have entered into an agreement that if on the arrival of the wine in India the quality should not appear as described, or has usually been sent on the Company's account, the wine shall be sold by auction for account of the contractor, who is to receive the profits that may arise thereon and who on the other hand must make good the loss. We therefore direct that on the arrival of the wine at your Presidency you do cause a strict examination to be made of its quality, and in case it should prove inferior to what you have usually received our orders are that you cause it to be sold in the manner above directed and that you do not fail to transmit us a particular account of your proceedings.

24. A copy of the contract will be sent when it has been executed by the parties.

25. Of the 500 pipes of Modeira wine to be sent to India, this season, 250 pipes are for the service of your Presidency, and will be consigned to you by the undermentioned houses on the following ships, viz.,

By Messrs. Allen and Company 71 pipes on the *Manship* and 125 pipes on the *Walpole*, and by Messrs. Ahmuty and Company 54 pipes on the *Manship*. And Messrs. Ahmuty and Company will also put 2 pipes on each of the ships *Sullivan*, *General Goddard* and *Fort William* for our supracargos at Canton.

We are,  
Your affectionate friends,

W. Devaynes / Nathl. Smith / Jn.  
Townsen / Jacob Bosanquet / Chas.  
Mills / Samuel Smith junior / Hugh  
Inglis / Jas. Moffat / E. Boehm /  
George Cuming / Thos. Parry / Jno.  
Michie / Paul Le Mesurier / John  
Roberts / Thos. Cheap.

London,  
the 22nd December, 1785.

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

No. 1.

No. 9.

## ENCLOSURE

*(Vide paragraph 4)*

Know all men by these presents, that I of London, Mariner, am held and firmly bound to the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies, in one thousand pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said United Company or their certain attorney or assigns, for which payment, well and truly to be made, I bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed with my seal, dated the day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., and in the Year of our Lord.

Whereas the said United Company hath lately taken the ship \_\_\_\_\_ is master or commander, into the service of the said United Company, upon freight, to perform a voyage to the East-Indies and back to England, and in the said ship's voyage it is likely that one or more passenger or passengers, in the stations hereinafter mentioned, may go on board the said ship to the East-Indies, and return from thence to Great Britain or Ireland. And whereas by a resolution of the Court of Directors of the said United Company, made the first day of December, 1775, it was resolved, among other things, that the commanders of the said Company's freighted ships should be permitted to receive, but upon no consideration to demand, a larger sum for the passage and accommodation of persons to India, in the stations hereinafter mentioned, than hereinafter is expressed; that is to say, for a general officer two hundred pounds; for a gentleman of Council or colonel one hundred and fifty pounds; for a lieutenant colonel one hundred and twenty pounds; for every senior merchant, junior merchant, or major one hundred pounds. And whereas by another resolution of the said Court of Directors, made the 17th day of December, 1778, the commanders of the said Company's freighted ships were to be allowed to receive the following allowances for the passage and accommodation of persons to India, in the stations hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, for factors and captains each one hundred pounds; for writers, lieutenants, and ensigns eighty pounds each; and for every cadet, entertained at the commander's table, by the commander's consent, or the Company's orders, sixty pounds; and by the said last resolution every commander, from thenceforth, was absolutely restrained from demanding or taking, by any ways or means, directly or indirectly, either in England or in India, from any writer, lieutenant, ensign or cadet, any greater sum or sums of money or other gratuity or satisfaction, for the passage and accommodation of such respective persons than the respective sums allowed by that resolution. And, in case any commander of any freighted ship should, by any ways or means, directly or indirectly, take any further or other sum or sums of money, or other gratuity or satisfaction, for the passage of any such person than what were allowed by that resolution, such commander should forfeit and pay to the said



Company, for the use of Poplar Hospital, treble the sum so taken beyond the sums before-mentioned, and for securing the same was to give bond to the said Company. And whereas by another resolution of the said Court of Directors of the said United Company, made the nineteenth day of October, 1785, it was resolved that the commanders of ships, in the said United Company's service, [should] be restrained from demanding of persons accommodated at their tables, in the [passage] from India, other sums than what they are allowed to take by orders of Court of the first December, 1775, and the 17th December, 1778. Now the condition of the above-written obligation is such that if the above-bounden do or shall, by any ways or means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, either in England or in India, demand from any general officer, gentleman of council, colonel, lieutenant colonel, senior merchant, junior merchant, major, factor and captain; or demand or take from any writer, lieutenant, ensign or cadet, any greater sum or sums of money, or other gratuity or satisfaction, for the passage and accommodation of such respective persons in their or his voyage out to or back from India, on board of the said ship, than the respective sums hereinafter mentioned, that is to say for every general officer, the sum of two hundred pounds; for every gentleman of council, or a colonel, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds; for every lieutenant-colonel, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds; for every senior merchant, junior merchant, or major or captain, the sum of one hundred pounds; for every writer, lieutenant and ensign, the sum of eighty pounds; and for every cadet entertained at the commander's table, by the commander's consent or the company's orders, the sum of sixty pounds, and, if in such case the above-bounden , his heirs, executors or administrators do and shall pay to the United Company or their treasurer, upon demand, to be applied by the said Company for the use of Poplar Hospital, treble the sum so taken beyond the respective sums hereinbefore mentioned; then the above-written obligation shall be void and of none effect, but otherwise shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and delivered (being first duly stamped)  
in the presence of—

Captain to the East-India Company

Bond to pay forfeit to Poplar Hospital for taking  
more than allowed by the Company for the passage  
of persons to or from India.

We have the honor to be  
Honourable Sirs

Fort William.

Your most faithful, humble servants



# LETTERS TO COURT

4

5

## LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1782

*Movement of ships—French privateers—concessions to commanders of ships—military stores sent to the Carnatic—Dutch prisoners at Chinsura to be transported to Europe—storage and disposal of the ordnance and investment taken from the Dutch—prize money in respect of Rohilla campaign—unjust treatment of Captain Ogilvie.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Since the dispatch of our last letter to you by the *Swallow*, under date the 29th of December 1781, we have laden the *Grosvenor* with rice for Fort St. George when[ce] she will receive a cargo for England. The ships *Dartmouth* and *Resolution* have also arrived here from that place and the former is now returned with a cargo agreeable to the enclosed invoice, amounting to current rupees 15,12,800.

2. It was our intention that the *Resolution* should proceed in company with the *Dartmouth* to join the homeward bound fleet at Fort St. George that they might all sail together from that place, but as the season is advanced and the *Resolution* requires some repairs before she can be ready for so long a voyage we did not think proper to detain the *Dartmouth* any longer on her account.

3. Having received information that some French privateers were cruising in the Bay, we thought it necessary, both for the security of the Company's property and the protection of the rice trade to Madrass, to dispatch the *Dartmouth* in company with the *Yarmouth* (a ship belonging to the Company which we had armed for the convoy of the opium ship to China) and such other vessels as we were sending with stores to Madrass.

4. The *Yarmouth* is thence to proceed to join the *Betsey* at Rhio, at which place we have accounts of her safe arrival, and to afford her assistance in transporting the goods which will be received in barter for the opium, as well as to give her protection during the remainder of her voyage to Canton.

5. We have just received accounts from Canton of the arrival of the *Duke of Portland*, *Contractor*, *Ponsborne*, *Royal Charlotte* and



*Rodney* packet on the 30th of September last, and that the supercargoes were preparing goods for the cargoes of 16 ships which they expected to dispatch in the course of this season, but we apprehend that they will be disappointed of this number by the late arrival on the Coast and detention of 6 of the China ships which sailed from England in Commodore Johnstone's fleet<sup>1</sup>, and as we have many more goods in the warehouse here than it will be possible to procure tonnage for in the course of this year we shall probably find it necessary to alter the destination of some of these ships and return them direct to Europe from hence instead of sending them to China.

6. At the particular solicitation of Captain Poynting who commands the *Resolution* we have agreed to extend the same favor to him and his officers which had been granted to other captains of that year's shipping in the article of certificates, and have accordingly authorized double the amount of the usual privilege to be received from him; his pretensions from the particular services rendered by his ship since her first arrival in India recommend him strongly for that indulgence.

28th January.

7. Having altered the destination of the *Nancy* which vessel has now been coppered and rendered fit for a Europe packet we propose to dispatch her immediately to England with the complete narrative of the Governor General's proceedings, which we expected to send by our last but it did not come down in time.

8. We have in consequence allowed Captain Hiffernan, the commander of this vessel, to pay into the treasury the usual sum allowed to the captains of packets for certificates redeemable in England in order to defray his expences while there, and have advanced him 4000 *sicca* rupees for the charges of the vessel on the way home, of which he will give you an account.

24th January.

9. Captain William McIntosh who was appointed to the command of the *Lively* packet at Fort St. George on the resignation of Captain Forrest has likewise been allowed the usual privilege of certificates for money paid into the treasury here.

24th January.

10. We have just received advice from Madrass of the arrival of the *Swallow* packet which sailed from hence at the beginning of last month. By her we consigned to the President and Council at Fort St. George 1 lack of rupees in specie, and by the present dispatch we make a further remittance to them in specie of six lacs divided equally on the *Dartmouth*, *Yarmouth* and *Resolution*.

2nd January.

11. We have also laden on board the *Yarmouth* and other vessels bound to Madrass a quantity of military stores for the use of the army in the Carnatic, and shall not relax in our endeavors to afford every possible assistance to that Presidency

2nd January.

during the continuance of the distresses which have been brought upon them by the destructive contest with Hyder Ally.

12. Understanding by accounts from Ganjam that a French privateer had burnt and destroyed a large number of country craft, laden with grain for the settlement of Fort St. George, in the Bay of Coringa

14th January. we thought it advisable to authorize a gentleman then

on the point of sailing with some vessels laden with rice, on the Company's account, to agree to any moderate terms of ransom that the enemy might demand in case of his falling into their hands, stipulating at the same time against the chance of recapture in his way to Madrass; and we allowed him upon obtaining sufficient vouchers of the fact to draw upon us for the amount.

13. We had the satisfaction to hear soon after that the privateer quitted her station upon a rumour of the approach of the *Chaser* frigate which arrived at Coringa shortly after her departure, and it is with pleasure we receive a report from Madras dated [...] January of the safe arrival of all the grain vessels laden by the Company which were expected to that time.

14. Having ordered the usual supply of stores for the island of St. Helena to be laden on board the *Dartmouth*, Captain Thomson made objections to agents against receiving any more than the quantity stipulated by charterparty, which allows us to ship only five tons without an acknowledgement entitling his owners to full freight for any excess. As it is of great consequence to furnish the island of St. Helena with the necessaries they require, and as your orders for the quantity of stores to be laden on each ship are particular and positive, we shall comply with them in every instance as far as we can and leave it to you to settle the difference with the owners; but as it has frequently happened that the stores sent to the ships have been actually returned for want of room and the Company put to the risk and expence of sloop-hire for conveying them down the river as well as to a loss upon their resale at Calcutta, and as the island of St. Helena may suffer both disappointment and inconvenience from the want of them, we recommend it to you to make such alteration in the charterparties as may admit a sufficient tonage for these articles in future.

15. Agreeably to the orders contained in a letter which we received from your Secret Committee on the breaking out of the war with Holland we directed all the Dutch prisoners at Chinsura to hold themselves in readiness to be sent to Europe by the ships of this season, in consequence of which we received remonstrances from many of them, but particularly from M. Ross, the late Director or Governor, in which he urged the necessity of his proceeding by the way of Ceylon, but we did not think fit to comply with his request in this point and therefore insisted on his obedience to our former injunctions. With respect to the others, although we judged it necessary to establish the rule for them all to go by direct conveyances to Europe, we agreed to consider the

pretensions of such as for want of present means of transporting the whole might be permitted to remain till another season.

16. By the information [of our] Commissary of stores whom we sent up to Chinsura to make a survey of the ordnance taken from the Dutch, that they might be removed into our own arsenal, they appear to be of such indifferent quality as to be thought not worth the expence of transportation. We have therefore ordered that they shall continue where they are under charge of the commissaries.

17. An offer was made a short time ago to the commissaries to purchase all the spices found in the Dutch warehouse, for the sum of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lacks of rupees. These according to a report made to us by the commissaries approved [appeared] to be as follows:

					Garldres [Guilders]
Cloves	lbs.	22985	cost the Dutch	...	34345 1 0
Nutmegs	...	9362	...	...	1796 9 8
Mace	...	256	...	...	161 4 8
Cinnamon	...	1031	...	...	1219 17 8
Pepper	...	8490	...	...	1203 4 8
					<hr/>
					17825 17 0 [sic]
				Deduct $1/5$	...
					<hr/>
				Cost— <i>sicca</i> rupees	...
					30260 0 0

18. We did propose to have sent the above spices to Europe as a remittance if we could have to full [sic] very short of the means of transporting our own investment, and [as] they might have decayed if we attempted to keep them another season we thought it preferable to dispose of them to the best advantage. The commissaries had consulted

28th January. M. Ross upon the offer and laid before us his opinion that it was an eligible one for the Company, being much superior to the usual rate at which the spices had been formerly retailed by the Dutch, and more than he thought they were likely to sell for at public auction; we therefore agreed to accept and ordered them to conclude the bargain accordingly.

19. The I have [share] of opinion [opium] which had been allotted to the Dutch was received by the commissaries in course  
2nd January. and we ordered it to be put to auction with the Company's, and have accordingly disposed of it.

20. The *Nonsuch*, a new coppered vessel carrying 32 guns, which was fitted out in Colonel Watson's docks and armed by him, having been laden with opium for the supply of the China investment, agreeably to what we advised in our last letter,  
24th January. is now under dispatch for Canton. We have granted letters of marque to

Colonel Watson for this ship and to the captain and officers a consideration of 8000 *sicca* rupees in lieu of privilege for the voyage.  
 5th February. The particular instructions which we have given respecting this vessel and the *Betsey* will be seen on the fore of the consultations.

21. In consequence of your last order respecting the late Vizier's donation to the 2nd Brigade in lieu of prize money  
 2nd January. for the Rohilla campaign we have written to the Resident at Oude for a particular state of that demand, and wait for his reply.

22. Captain William Ogilvie, who was dismissed the Company's service by sentence of a general court martial while under General Sir Eyre Coote in the Carnatic, has applied to us [to be] restored  
 24th January. with his rank, but as we had received no information respecting him from the General by whom the sentence of the court had been confirmed, nor any power to redress him in the situation he was in, we allowed him to follow the alternative of returning to England to by [lay] his petition before your Hon'ble Court, but we think it incumbent upon us to remark, for your information, that by the proceedings of the court which he laid before us he appears to have been rather harshly treated, as the original charge was not for any heinous [heinous] offence and the crime in itself, if fully proved, too trivial in our opinion to deserve so service [severe] a punishment.

23. At the particular recommendation of the Commander in Chief we agreed to promote Major John McPherson<sup>2</sup> to the rank of lieutenant colonel previous to his resignation of the Company's service on the pension. His pretensions after a period of 22 years' service in the King's and Company's troops in this country without having once been to Europe and his meritorious conduct as an officer gave him a good title to this indulgence.

24. We have also complied with the recommendation of the Commander in Chief in promoting Captains James Satt [Scott] and Thomas Bradl[e]y to the rank of major, that they might, in consequence, resign  
 14th January. the service and enjoy the pension allowed to invalid officers of that rank, but as we conceived that the precedent, however allowable in particular cases where the extraordinary services of the officers added to the particular circumstances of their situation from long standing in the army, and the possession of property which, though inadequate to their support, might preclude them from making the affidavit required, were strong arguments for their promotion, yet we thought it necessary to put a stop to these recommendations, and accordingly desired the Commander in Chief to refrain from them in future.

25. We have since had before us the cases of Captain Richard Sturgeon, an old invalid officer, who by his standing  
 28th January. in the army would have attained the rank of major had he not been superceded on account of his being in that corps, and of



Captain James Grant, an old officer, who had marked [marched] with and served the whole campaign under General Goddard, had repeatedly distinguished himself by his gallant behaviour against the Marattas and actually acquired the illness by which he was rendered unfit for further service in India from the severity of the field duty to which it fell to his lot to be exposed under Sir Eyre Coote in the Carnatic. These appeared to us to be singular cases which demanded our commiseration, and without any other recommendation we agreed to promote Captains Sturgeon and Grant to the rank of major that they might retire upon it with the pension.

26. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Ironside, having been advised by the  
28th January. surgeons to quit this climate and repair to England for the benefit of his health we have permitted him to resign the Company's service, and embark as a passenger on board the *Dartmouth*.

27. Mr. Isaac Baugh, one of your covenanted servants, has been permitted to resign the service in order to return to England; he took his passage by the *Swallow*, but his letter of resignation was not received till after the date of our dispatches by that vessel.

28. We have received a letter from Mr. William Hosea acquainting us that the concerns of his family requiring his presence in England he finds it necessary to resign the service that he may proceed thither by the *Grosvenor*, on which he had engaged a passage for himself and family from Madrass.

29. After a period of 17 years' service in several important stations under this Presidency, we cannot deny Mr. Hosea the justice of recommending him to your favor for a reappointment to the service in case he shall apply for it when the business, which now obliged him to go to Europe, shall admit of his return to his duty in India.

30. We have likewise received a petition from Mr. John Stormonth, an old surgeon in your service, desiring permission to repair to England for the recovery of his health, which has been endangered from long illness in this country. We have therefore granted him leave to resign the service and take his passage on the *Dartmouth*.

31. As we think Mr. Stormonth has strong pretensions to your favor we take the liberty to recommend him to be permitted to return to Bengal with his full rank in the Company's service, agreeably to the terms of our representation respecting him in the General Letter which we wrote to you by the *Hector*, dated May 1777.

32. Mr. Richard Sumner has also received our permission to resign the Company's service and take passage to England by the *Dartmouth*; as he is an old servant and has been employed in stations of great trust in which he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his superiors, we think it a justice done to him to recommend his pretensions to be retired with his rank, whenever his affairs shall permit him to return



to India. Indeed he has reserved a claim to that indulgence in his letter of resignation.

33. Mr. John Petrie has obtained our permission to resign the service under the like circumstances, and having expressed his intention of returning to his duty on the establishment, as soon as he can with conveniency, we beg leave to inform you that he has given general satisfaction in the offices which he has held under us. We therefore recommend his claim to your favourable consideration when he shall apply to you to be restored.

34. Major J. W. Crabb, finding it necessary to return to Europe for the benefit of his health, has received leave from us to resign the Company's service and take his passage on the *Lively* packet.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money					
General Treasury		6,49,223	6	8	
Khalsah	...	10,382	7	3	
					6,59,605 13 11
Bills receivable					
General Treasury	<i>sicca</i> rupees	...			
Khalsah	... do.	1,96,014	14	10	
				2,27,377	4 9
					2,27,377 4 9
Mint					
General Treasury	.....	1,33,639	3	10	
Khalsah	... ..	...			
					1,33,639 3 10
Unsorted treasure					
from Burdwan		15,902	6	10	
from Midnapore		1,62,857	0	0	
from Chittagong		1,21,711	0	0	
				3,00,470	6 10
valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees				3,30,517	7 0
					Current rupees 13,51,139 0 0

The amount of appropriated sums as follows:

Balance account deposits	...	12,26,495	14	5	
Do. Accomptant General to the					
Mayor's Court	...	1,34,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on					
which the interest has ceased					
by public advertisement	...	45,117	0	8	
Do. on account the Church					
Wardens bearing a running					
interest by orders of the					
Court of Directors	...	57,600	0	0	
					14,63,374 12 10

The amount of the new loans as follows:

New bonded debt	...	...	1,43,33,951	1	6
Four per cent remittance loan 1780	...	19,26,900			
Do. do. 1781	...	18,57,600			
		—	37,84,500	0	0
Annuities	...	...	1,06,730	0	0
			—		
			1,82,25,181	1	[6]
Diminution on the deposits from the 7th to the 8th February 1782	...	2,54,314	9	0	

Fort William,  
the 9th February 1782.

We have the honour to be,  
Hon'ble sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.

## 2

## LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1782

*Cattle supply to Madras—the Bijaigarh fort booty—Larkins' application regarding his seniority.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East India.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have written to you so lately by the *Dartmouth* that little remains to be added to our advices from this Department.

2. We now dispatch the *Nancy*, Captain Hiffernan, with orders to make the best of his way to Great Britain, and to convey the packets to you which are under his charge from the first port he shall arrive at.

3. In a former letter we acquainted you that we had enclosed [concluded] a contract with Mr. Samuel Touchet for supplying the

Presidency of Fort St. George with cattle, but as their pressing distresses, for the relief of which we had entered into this engagement, were removed by the distance of the conveying part [?] of Hyder Ally's troops from Madrass, and the President and Council informed or [us] that they had no present occasion for these articles, we proposed to Mr. Touchet to cancel the contract which he had entered into. This he has consented to do on condition that we will load the vessels which he had prepared for the transportation of cattle [with] grain, so that they may sail before the 25th of this month. We have therefore ordered such as may be ready by that time to be laden accordingly and dispatched.

4. Major Thomas Bradl[e]y, having obtained the necessary certificates to entitle him to the military pension, and taken the oath of gratification, [qualification], proceeds to England a passenger in the *Nancy*.

5. Captain Robert Rayne has also resigned the service and taken 18th February. his passage on the *Nancy*.

6. We have sent a number of Dutch prisoners of the lower class on board the *Dartmouth* and the *Nancy*, to be transported to England; lists of their names will [.....]

7. By the copy of a minute and letter to Major Popham, which make a number in the packet, you will observe that we have taken into our consideration the references made to us by the Governor General on the subject of the Company's right to the booty 17th December. found in the garrison of Bejygur, which was immediately seized and divided by the troops concerned in the reduction of the place. We refer you to those papers for our determination on this point.

8. We have received a letter from Mr. Larkins, our Accomptant General, soliciting to be replaced in his former rank on the list of Company's servants, next below Mr. Thomas Calvert and immediately above Mr. John Taylor, as the gentlemen on the list of that season by rising to the rank of senior merchants will supercede Mr. Larkins, who by your express appointment was fixed to remain the youngest senior merchant on this establishment.

9. This appointment when granted to Mr. Larkins was intended to give him precedence on the list of Company's servants, but as it can no longer be attended with that effect it would be an injury and degradation to him to continue it as his assistants in time would rise to a rank above him. Mr. Larkins' merits entitle him to every indulgence which can be shewn him; we therefore venture, with confidence, to recommend his letter with our minutes upon it, which make a number in the packet. to your personal [notice] and his cause to your favourable consideration.

The state of our treasury account this day is as follows, viz.,

Ready money						
General Treasury	...	...	5,07,727	10	7	
Khalsah	...	...	1,47,754	4	0	
				<hr/>		
				6,55,481	14	7
Bills receivable						
Khalsah						
Sicca rupees	2,31,137	14	10	2,68,119	15	6
Mint						
General Treasury	...	...	...	1,51,080	10	8
Unsorted treasure						
Burdwan	15,902	6	10			
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees				17,492	10	4
				<hr/>		
				Current rupees	10,92,175	3 1

The amount of appropriated sums as follows:

Balance account deposit	...	10,42,273	7	3		
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,34,161	13	9		
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertisement	...	45,117	0	8		
Do. on account the Church Wardens bearing a running interest by order of the Court of Directors	...	57,600	0	0		
				<hr/>		
				12,79,152	5	8

The amount of the new loans as follows:

New bonded debt	...	1,43,62,651	1	6		
4 per cent remittance loan 1780	...	19,26,900	0	0		
Do. do. 1781	...	18,57,600	0	0		
				<hr/>		
				37,84,500	0	0
Annuities	...	1,06,730	0	0		
				<hr/>		
				1,82,53,881	1	6

Fort William,  
14th February 1782.

We have the honor to be,  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.

LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1782<sup>1</sup>

*Banking houses of Gopal Das at Benares and the principal cities of the Deccan—grain sent to relieve Madras—Sir Edward Hughes' fleet to move to a southern station—fresh agreement with Prinsep regarding minting copper coins—appointment of a fixed commandant for the Fort William garrison—General Stibbert's petition against his supersession—new policy regarding grant of additional ranks.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have the honor to forward a duplicate of our last address to you by the *Nancy*, dated 14th February.

2. Having been disappointed in our expectation of the return of the *Chapman* from Fort St. George in time to receive a cargo for Europe this season, we resolved to alter the destination of the 28th February. *Valentine*, which was then here, and to dispatch her to England in company with the *Resolution*. Captain Lewis, with great readiness, undertook the voyage proposed for him.

3. The *Valentine* being now laden for England, according to our orders, will convey to you a cargo amounting, as per inclosed invoice, to current rupees 15,49,600.

4. The *Resolution* not having been repaired by the 23rd ultimo, the time limited by charterparty for her dispatch, and the Board of Trade informing us that it was probable she could not be ready early enough to accomplish the voyage this season, we judged it 25th March. necessary, in order to preclude any protest from Captain Poynting, to declare her dismissed from the Company's service, until she should be reported to us fit to receive on board the lading designed for her.

5. The *Queen* has been again laden with rice for the use of the Presidency of Fort St. George, whence she will proceed on her former voyage to China.

6. The *Southampton* was likewise ordered to be laden with grain for Fort St. George, but as it was judged necessary to send her into dock to repair the damage which she had sustained in the voyage out



by running foul of the *Essex* before she could return to Europe, we agreed to dispatch her to Bombay, and took that opportunity of conveying a quantity of saltpetre, required by that Presidency, which could not otherwise be transported there but at an exorbitant freight.

7. The *Fortitude* had been laden with rice for Fort St. George at the same time with the *Queen*, and was ready to sail in company with her, but the violence of the weather discovered a leak before she quitted the river, which will make it necessary to unload her.

8. The *Active* frigate, on which we had laden 6 lacks of rupees in specie, for the use of the Presidency of Fort St. George, was obliged, through stress of weather, to put back, having sprung a leak which made it dangerous for her to proceed.

9. Out of 12 lacks of rupees designed for that Presidency, whereof we informed you that we had dispatched 6 lacks by the *Dartmouth* Indiaman, and *Yarmouth* and *Resolution* country ships, in February last, we are only informed of the receipt of 2 lacks by the *Resolution*, which ship is since returned here and has been offered to convey a further supply. The *Dartmouth* and *Yarmouth* were not arrived there so late as the 22nd March.

10. Although the Presidency and Council at Fort St. George continue to draw upon us for considerable sums as the only means of discharging many of the demands upon them, and those who have demands are consequently under the necessity of receiving bills, yet regular bills of exchange for any amount are not procurable from the merchants and bankers here which could serve as a remittance to that Government, and the Bay being at this time infested by the ships of the enemy's fleet, whose operations on the Coast you will learn from our Secret Letter, it is become very hazardous to send specie. We have therefore by the assistance of the house of Gopaul Doss<sup>2</sup>, a very considerable shroff, who, exclusive of his principal establishment at Benares, has agents fixed for the transaction of the remittance business at most of the capital cities in Deccan, endeavored to settle a plan of remittance by bills through the channels of Naugpore and Hydrabad to Mussulipatam and even to Fort St. George, and have hopes that in the course of two months it may be so far effected as to yield a constant and ample supply to that settlement.

11. We have likewise taken means for procuring large stores of grain for the relief of the Presidency of Fort St. George by directing the different collectors of the grain districts, which have fortunately produced very abundant crops this season, to make purchases on the Company's account and to send down these supplies, at the cheapest rates, to Calcutta.

12. To the President and Council at Fort St. George we have written desiring them to engage all the tonnage they can procure to transport it, and as a number of transports belonging to Commodore Alms' squadron<sup>3</sup> are already arrived in India, and many more may be expected in the course of this season, we have no doubt of being able to throw into the garrison of Fort St. George as large supplies of provisions as will be required for the support of that place and the army, provided, as we have every reason to suppose from the result of the late naval engagement, that our fleet is able to cope with that of the enemy or at least to divert it from destroying the grain vessels.

13. We have received letters from Fort St. George informing us that Vice Admiral Sir Edward Hughes<sup>4</sup> was to sail, with the whole fleet under his command, to a southern station on the twenty-fourth ultimo, and that the *Grosvenor* would be dispatched for England to sail under his convoy out of the Bay, but that the *Rochford* had been found too leaky to proceed with the cargo which we had laden upon her, and was therefore discharged from the service that she might go round to Bombay to be repaired.

14. The *Chapman* was arrived at Fort St. George from Negapatnam the twenty-second ultimo, and her prize, the *Duc de Toscanne*, hospital ship to the French fleet, is safely brought into this river.

15. In consequence of the representation of Captain Lewis, that he should not be able to secure his property on board the *Valentine* by insurance in England on account of her sudden dispatch for that place, and in compliance with his request therefore that we could increase the privilege which he was allowed to pay in money here for certificates repayable in England we agreed to receive from him and his officers double the stipulated amount, for which certificates will be accordingly granted to him.

16. Captains Douglas, Gregory, Poynting, Walker and Lennox had other pleas for urging a similar request, but not less forcible that [than] the foregoing; they complained of the heavy charge of interest to which they would be subject upon the loans they had taken up in England, by their extraordinary detention in India, and prayed to be allowed certificates which they might remit home to discharge those loans. The utility of the services which they had rendered and the force of their pretensions to this indulgence, added to our pressing demand for money to supply the Presidency of Madrass, induced us to extend the privilege likewise to these ships, and to grant them and their officers leave to pay double the usual amount into our treasury for certificates to be discharged by the Company in England.

17. The ships *Southampton* and *Resolution* having lost their surgeons

we ordered assistant surgeons, belonging to this establishment, to do duty  
 11th March. on board them for the remainder of their voyages.  
 25th March. Mr. A. Williamson is appointed to the *Southampton*  
 and Mr. G. M. Kenderdine to the *Resolution*.

18. . At the request of Captain Mackenzie, of the *Active* frigate, we  
 have supplied that ship with 100 barrels of gunpowder, for which his  
 25th February. receipt is enclosed. We have also supplied the  
 4th March. *Valentine* with 140 round and 50 double headed shots  
 for 12 pounders, in consequence of an application for  
 that purpose from Captain Lewis.

19. Twenty of the vessels belonging to Mr. Touchet, which we  
 mentioned in our last, were laden with rice by the twenty-fifth February,  
 11th March. agreeably to our orders, and had dropped down the  
 river as far as Fulta; but the southerly monsoon  
 having set in with uncommon violence this [season], and remarkably early,  
 we did not think it safe to let them proceed and have, in consequence,  
 ordered them to be unladen and laid by till the return of the mild season.

20. By the copy of our Secret Letter overland, dated 8th April,  
 which makes a number in this packet, you will observe a particular  
 state of the investment provided for this season, and now lying in  
 the warehouse of the Board of Trade for want of tonnage to convey it  
 to England; you will also see the abstract of a plan we have adopted  
 for supplying an investment for the ensuing year, a copy of which, for  
 your fuller information, we enclose. By untoward accidents we have  
 been deprived of the services of several ships which we expected to  
 return to you in the course of this season. The *Neptune* sprung a leak  
 and was obliged to proceed to Bombay for repairs, the *Hinchinbrooke*  
 never arrived, the *Rochford* has been under the necessity of depositing  
 her cargo at Madrass, the *Chapman* is still detained at that place and  
 the *Resolution* unable to proceed from hence; we hope nevertheless in  
 the course of next season, reckoning upon the aid of all these ships,  
 except the *Hinchinbrooke*, and those which may be expected from  
 Europe, to dispatch to you forthwith cargoes before the end of April  
 1783.

21. You have been informed of the agreement which had been  
 entered into with Mr. John Prinsep for coining and establishing a  
 copper currency throughout these provinces. The coin was received  
 accordingly at the treasury from his mint and issued in all payments made  
 from thence in the proportion of one per cent; but difficulties occurring  
 18th February. in circulating it by this mode, we gave orders not to  
 receive any more from the mint than could be actually  
 passed without coercion or constraint. Mr. Prinsep having worked up  
 a large quantity complained us of the hardship of being obliged to  
 maintain his establishment of a mint, which had been formed at a  
 considerable expence, and of being left with a great property in copper

coin which remained dead upon his hands without any return, and offered, at the same time, to effect the circulation of it  
 1st April. himself, upon commission of it should be left entirely to him; as the plan which he proposed to us was the most likely to succeed and as the attainment of the revenue expected from this object depended entirely on its being carried into effect we agreed to his proposal, and have allowed him an increase in his commission, equal to 8 rupees per maund, so that the Company are now to pay Mr. Prinsep sixty-eight rupees for every maund of copper currency which he shall circulate at eighty rupees, under the present checks and regulations established over the mint, he accounting quarterly to Government for the difference between these two rates.

22. In consequence of an application from some of the persons who had taken up annuities here upon their lives and were about to depart for England soliciting that a clause might be added to the annuity bonds making them payable in England, in order to obviate the necessity of leaving agents in this country to receive and transmit to England the  
 18th February. bills of exchange on the Company which by the tenor of the bonds they were entitled to, we promised to relieve them from this expence by making it a rule that the bills of exchange, in favour of such annuitants as were gone to Europe, should regularly be delivered in triplicate at the Secretary's office here, and transmitted numbers in the packets of different ships to the India House, where you will be pleased to order them to be delivered out accepted to the parties themselves or to such agents as they may appoint to demand them, upon any proof which you may deem sufficient of the existence of the principals at the period of granting such bills. We did not think proper to agree to the request of the annuitants to make it a condition that the sums should become payable to them directly in England, both because we thought we could not bind the Company by such an engagement and because it would have anticipated the payment of their claims by the length of time which the bills have necessarily to run before they become due.

23. Mr. Charles Donaldson, attorney for the heirs of the late Mr. John Stuart, at their desire, has renewed his request to us to be  
 4th March. allowed the arrears of Mr. Stuart's salary as Secretary and Judge Advocate General, from the period of his removal from those offices in Bengal till his demise under the assurances that it was your intention to have made him that allowance. As we had no authority from you for complying with such a claim we thought it necessary to reject it, leaving the attorney at liberty to refer it back to his constituents or to pursue such other means as they might have advised for prosecuting it with success.

24. In consequence of a minute from the Governor General, stating the irregularities and inconveniences which he experienced in conducting the details of the garrison for want of [a] fixt officer under him,



whose duty it said [would] be to attend to the order and cleanliness of the place, and to the due execution of such points as properly fell under that station, we agreed to appoint a fixt commandant of the garrison, and this place has accordingly been given to Colonel Hampton.

25. We beg leave to offer to your favorable and attentive perusal a letter addressed to us on the twenty-third February, by Brigadier General Giles Stibbert<sup>s</sup> as Commander in Chief of the forces on this establishment, representing the hardship which he, as oldest Brigadier General in the Company's service, was exposed to from a supercession by all the officers of that rank in His Majesty's service who, when he was appointed a general officer, were only colonels and lieutenant colonels, and particularly instancing the cases of General Stewart at Madrass, his junior officer in the Company's service, and Lord McLeod who was again junior to the latter in the King's service.

26. We could not but be sensible of the justice of this complaint, and being desirous of testifying our approbation of the distinguished zeal and attention which General Stibbert has ever shewn in executing the important duties of his station as Commander in Chief of the forces under your superior Government, we resolved to grant him such redress as was in our power, and accordingly promoted him to the rank of major general of your forces without any increase of allowances.

27. We beg leave to recommend it to you to confirm this commission. The General has solicited that we would further request your intercession to obtain from His Majesty a grant of the same local rank in his service in India; we cannot recommend, but think it sufficient to express the General's wishes in this respect, and to leave them to your pleasure to be complied with; at the same time we beg leave, with all deference, to submit to you the propriety of distinguishing the officers of your Supreme Government in India by such rank or precedence that they may suffer no degradation when upon service with the officers of your inferior Governments. We think the superiority of this Government intitles them to a preference, particularly when it is considered that we have not only contributed most essentially to the wants of the other Presidencies in supplies of every kind but have furnished large detachments of troops to their assistance, who, as well as the officers commanding them, are put to additional charges and inconvenience by being on a foreign service.

28. Colonel John Tottingham, having been obliged by his ill state of health to resign the Honorable Company's service and to proceed to Europe for his recovery, takes passage for himself and family by this ship the *Valentine*.

29. Lieutenant Colonel John Macpherson also takes passage by this



ship, and is possessed of the necessary certificates for obtaining the pension.

30. Major Robert Stewart has likewise been under the necessity of resigning the Honorable Company's service on account of his health, in order to repair to Europe for a change of climate. As he had taken his passage on this ship and was apprehensive when it should be known in England that Lieutenant Colonel John McPherson, his junior officer, was promoted above him it might cast a slur upon his reputation in the opinion of those to whom the cause should not be explained, he prayed to be allowed to retire with the same rank under the customary reservations from [the service].

31. We agreed to gratify Major Stewart, and accordingly promoted him with the above reservations. We were also obliged to extend this favor to Major Crabb, an officer of distinguished merit, and senior to Major Stewart and a principal instrument of the successes obtained in the treasury of Benares under the command of Major Aplin. He had previously desired and obtained our leave to resign the Company's service for the benefit of his health, and was to be a passenger in the same ship.

32. Although these promotions neither entitle the officers to whom they have been granted increase of pay or command, since their service and promotion only takes place on the resignation, they will, most probably, be intitled to both, by regular succession, long before they can return from Europe, and although it gives them no advantage whatsoever but the mere nominal rank which is conferred, we have thought it expedient to put a stop to it here by a resolution not to confer additional rank in future on any person out of the regular course of rotation, except in favor of such officers as have been disabled, by wounds or particular services, from the performance of further duty in India, and being near the head of the list have no other motive for continuing in the country but to rise to a superior rank, which may enable them to retire upon the pension. We think that the indulgence of immediate promotion to such officers is fully warranted, because the fund is not only able to afford it but it opens a door for merit to be rewarded by means which may enable the parties to avail themselves of a benefit, which they must otherwise forego from the state of their circumstances, and which would only remain to be enjoyed by those who come after them, at a period less productive of those occasions which could call forth the merits of your officers [and] entitle them to such a recompence.

33. In this class is Lieutenant James Moore who, from the unhealthiness of the situation of Budjygur during the campaign at that place, acquired a most dangerous illness, and has been reduced, at an early period of life to quit the country without any present prospect of being able to return to his duty. We have

therefore granted him promotion to the rank of captain, that he may claim the benefit of the fund.

34. Major Watkin Thelwall of artillery has obtained our permission to resign the Company's service and embark on board this ship for England; he proceeds for the purpose of adjusting some private affairs which require his presence.

35. Majors James Salt and James Lewis likewise proceed by this ship, and take with them certificates for the pension.

36. Mr. John Fydell, one of your covenanted servant on this establishment, has obtained our leave to resign on account of his ill state of health and to return to England by the *Valentine*.

37. The service being in great want of assistant surgeons we have appointed the following persons to act in that capacity since the first of January last, viz., Hugh Mahon, Robert Anderson, John Lamb, [....] Morris, James Grant, William Hunter, John Shaw, Patrick Ivory.

38. Since writing the foregoing part of this letter the ship *Resolution* has had her rudder properly hung and is reported to us to be in a fit state to receive on board the remainder of her cargo; we have therefore received her again into the Company's service, and desired the Board of Trade to complete her lading as soon as possible that she may yet be dispatched to you this season.

The state of our treasury is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	*7,19,397	11	2	
Khalsah	...	...	2,99,699	6	5	
						10,19,0[9]7 1 7

Bills receivable

General Treasury						
Sicca rupees	17,13,840	11	19,88,055	3	2	
Khalsah						
Sicca rupees	4,04,388	10	4,69,090	13	0	
						24,57,146 0 2

Mint

General Treasury	...	...	2,76,751	8	7	
Khalsah	...	...	...			
						2,76,751 8 7
Unsorted treasure valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees			...			...

Current rupees 37,52,994 10 4

\* In this sum is included the amount of 6,00,000 of rupees packed up for Madrass.

The amount of appropriated sums as follows:

Balance account deposits	...	17,17,826	10	5	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertisement	...	45,117	0	8	
Do. on account the wardens bearing a running interest by orders of the Court of Directors	...	57,600	0	0	
					19,40,705 8 10

The amount of the new loans as follows:

New bonded debt	...	1,49,47,251	1	6	
Four per cent remittance loan 1780	...	19,26,900			
Do. do. 1781	...	18,57,600			
		37,84,500	0	0	
Annuities	...	1,06,730	0	0	
					1,88,38,481 1 6

The amount received on account the new loans this week:

New bonded debt	...	1,12,500	0	0
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Fort William,  
10 April 1782.

[We have the honor to be etc.]

## LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1782

*Subscriptions raised to provide investment—penalty for secret trade in cloth—measures to relieve the distress of the Dutch at Chinsura—Bijaigarh to be a centre for recruiting sepoys—Colonel Morgan to be the commanding officer of the detachment on the Malabar coast—Governor General seeks permission to increase his staff—seniority of the sons of Becher.*

### PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. The ship *Valentine*, by which our last letter was addressed to you under date the 10th ultimo, sailed from the Barrabulla after the loss of two anchors and cables on the 29th and left her pilot on the 1st of May.

2. Having lent Captain Lewis six brass 12 pounders for the protection of the *Valentine* we enclose a copy of his receipt, 29th April. in which he promises to be accountable to you for these guns on his arrival in England.

3. The *Southampton*, which was at the Barrabulla at the same time with the *Valentine*, attempted also to sail for Bombay, but her leak increased so much from the violence of the weather that she was obliged to return to Kedjeree.

4. The *Fortitude*, which had before put back from a similar cause, was unloaded at Kedjeree to discover the leak, which appeared to have been occasioned by the graze of a gunshot received in the action at St. Iago, which had obliquely struck one of the planks on the inside of the hold. This accident being repaired she is now receiving her cargo on board again for Madrass.

5. We now dispatch to you the *Resolution*, Captain Thomas Poynting, with a cargo, agreeable to the enclosed invoice, amounting to current rupees 15,01,100.

6. We have the pleasure to inform you of the arrival of the convoy of the *Sultan* and *Magnanime* at Fort St. George on the 3rd March, together with the *Hinchinbrooke* which had joined them at [.....].

7. The *Northumberland*, Captain Rees, which was one of this convoy, having been detached from the fleet to the southward of Fort St. George, came direct to Bengal and arrived here on the 16th ultimo. By her we have received your commands of the 31st May 1781.

8. In compliance with a pressing application from the President and Council at Fort Marlborough we have agreed to dispatch the 29th April. *Northumberland* immediately to that place with stores and grain, of which they are much in need, and to afford them tonnage for transporting a part of the Company's pepper to England, as they inform us that they had collected 1600 tons on the 27th of last January, and that the quantity would accumulate daily.

9. The *Rochford*, which was unladen at Madrass to be employed on other service, and prevented on her return from reshipping her cargo by reason of a leak, has been sent back to Bengal, and is lately arrived at Kedjeree; her cargo will be conveyed to you from Madrass by the *Chapman*.

10. By the *Resolution*, Captain Mercer, we have dispatched to 15th April. Fort St. George the specie amounting to six lacks of current rupees, which had been landed from the *Active* frigate, and after the repair of this vessel we propose to send a further supply of six lacks by her.

11. The *Dartmouth*, *Yarmouth*, *Indus* and *Intelligence*, which we dispatched to Madrass early in February, and from the length of their passage were under some apprehension about [them], arrived safe at that place on the 29th of March, and landed the treasure and stores intended for the use of the army.

12. By a letter which the Governor General has received from Captain Sutton, Commander of the *Duke of Portland*, dated at Malacca the 8th of March, it appears that this ship in company with the *Royal Charlotte*, *Ponsborne* and *Contractor* were so far on their homeward voyage from China.

13. With our last dispatches we hastily transmitted to you a copy of a plan which we had just resolved to adopt for the provision of an investment for the ensuing year by subscription. Upon more mature consideration of the plan we found that the ultimate exchange of 2s. 2d. per current rupee, to which we had limited the property of the subscribers, was insufficient, after deducting the necessary charge of insurance, to yield them a reasonable remittance and that people, from this cause and the long credit which was requisite, would probably be deterred from subscribing. We therefore thought it necessary, before we published the plan, to increase the limited exchange to 2s. 6d. per current rupee.

15th April.

14. We further thought that it might afford an eligible method of supplying the public treasuries at Madrass and Bombay, without the trouble and expence of remittance, if a particular number of shares were reserved for the use of subscribers at those places; we therefore agreed to reserve 200 for the former and 100 for the latter. Some printed copies of the plan, as it now stands, are enclosed numbers in the packet.

15th April.

15. We have further to inform you that Messrs. Palk and Becher, two members of your Board of Trade, have been balotted to act with Mr. Dacres, the President, as Commissioners for the provision of the subscription investment.

25th April.

16. You will observe by the proceedings of the Board of Trade from the 17th to the 26th ultimo, an extract of which is entered in our records, that upon occasion of the balot which was referred to them, some of their members thought proper to enter into a very free, and as we conceive, unwarrantable discussion of the subject; the remarks which we have thought it necessary to make upon these minutes will go enclosed a number in the packet, and we beg leave to recommend the whole to your particular attention, hoping that in support of our dignity and authority you will take such notice of them as they may appear to deserve.

29th April.

17. At the desire of the Board of Trade we thought it necessary to enact a penalty against the clandestine purchase of cloths from the



weavers, manufactured by means of the Company's advances, a practice of that kind having been detected and reported to them.  
 22nd April. We have therefore ordered the parties offending in future to be delivered over to the Civil Magistrate, and upon proof of the fact the cloths so purchased are to be confiscated.

18. Upon a representation from Sir Robert Chambers<sup>1</sup>, Superintendant of the courts of justice at Chinsura, that many of the Dutch inhabitants since the surrender of the place being deprived of their former means of subsistence were reduced to the greatest indigence, and several of the more respectable families brought to such distress as to be obliged private[ly] to sell off their furniture and ornaments to maintain themselves, we thought it just that the revenues of the town, which were not considerable, should contribute to the support of its inhabitants; we therefore resolved to appropriate them accordingly under the direction and discretion of Sir Robert Chambers as trustee for the poor Dutch inhabitants, with instructions to relieve more privately the wants of those families who might be degraded by the receipt of public charity.  
 15th April.

19. In consequence of a representation from the Resident at Benares that the duty of 5 per cent, which had been fixed as the amount of the customs to be collected by Raja Mahipnarain, were too heavy upon spices, raw silk and other valuable articles of considerable traffic, which would consequently be conveyed through other channels to the ultimate place of their destination, we agreed to reduce the duty on such goods to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, which will be more equitable and nearer the rates levied upon these commodities by the former Raja.  
 15th April.

20. We have resolved to keep possession of the fort of Beedjy Ghur, which was taken from the late Raja of Benares and to garrison it with the Company's troops. As we judge also from its situation, that it may be a proper place for a nursery of *sepoys* recruits to be raised and distributed to the regiments we have adopted a plan for that purpose recommended to us by the Commander in Chief.  
 22nd April.

21. We have agreed to give up the other forts of Angoory and Luttuffpore, which are of little consequence or strength, to the Zemindars on their signing a receipt and obligation to return them to Government if ever they shall be demanded from them.  
 22nd April.

22. A plan has also been suggested to us by the Commander in Chief for enlisting a body of 500 *sepoys* in the province of Orissa for the professed purpose of serving whereon their presence shall be required to the southward of Bengal, as the *sepoys* on this establishment, being in general natives of the upper countries, are extremely averse to that duty. We have agreed to this plan  
 22nd April.

as an experiment, and if it shall be found to answer it may hereafter be enlarged.

23. At the earnest solicitation of Major Anthony Polier<sup>2</sup>, who resigned the Company's service in the year 1775 to proceed to Lucknow for the purpose of recovering a considerable debt due to him from the Vizier, we have agreed to admit him again into the  
 15th April. army and have appointed him a lieutenant colonel of infantry by brevet; but he is not stationed to serve in any particular corps until your pleasure respecting his future situation shall be made known to us.

24. The cessation of hostilities with the Marattas affording, as we conceived, a fit occasion for attending more effectually to the economical control of the expences of the detachment of troops from this Presidency serving under Brigadier General Goddard on the Malabar coast, and being persuaded that the immediate personal attendance of the commanding officer with a corps on such remote service was absolutely necessary to carry our intentions into execution and to conduct the detail of military duty, we took that opportunity of appointing Colonel  
 15th April. Charles Morgan, whom we had previously nominated to succeed Colonel Parker as second in command, to the chief command of the said detachment under the general authority of General Goddard, whom we directed to deliver over the immediate command accordingly to him. Notwithstanding the prohibitory orders which we found it necessary to send to General Goddard from drawing on us, we have empowered Colonel Morgan to grant bills at the exchange of 100 *sicca* rupees per 100 By.<sup>3</sup> rupees, which is the rate we now pay for them here, to discharge the arrears due to the detachment in case the resolution of the Select Committee at Bombay to withhold that part of the Surat revenues which had been appropriated to this service, of which we before advised you, should have actually taken effect.

25. In our consultation noted in the margin you will observe a minute delivered by the Governor General and agreed to by us desiring,  
 8th April. for the reasons therein set forth, to be allowed of his own authority to augment the members of his staff, in order to afford such military patronage and marks of distinction in particular cases as he might think proper, without submitting to the humiliation of applying for such favors to the Commander in Chief.

26. We have received a letter from Mr. Becher, copy of which for your information goes a number in this packet, and we beg leave to recommend it to your favorable attention. It states that Mr.  
 2nd May. Becher, while a Director of the East India Company, had given his nomination of a writer for Bengal in favor of his eldest son, Richard Becher junior, and his nomination of a cadet for this place in favor of Robert Becher his second son. Being anxious about the rank they were to hold on the lists for the season he applied particularly on that subject to the Chairman, alledging that he understood it was customary

to give the precedence to the sons or near relations of gentlemen in the direction, and in reply was assured that it was unnecessary to give himself any further trouble as it was a thing of course; however, by the lists now sent out it appears that the son who was appointed a writer stands the 17th from the top and the cadet as low as the 54th. Exclusive of any right which Mr. Becher might have possessed, and on which he appears to have grounded his application in favor of his sons for seniority of rank, he seems to have it so much at heart that in consideration of his character and of his long and approved services to the Company, both in India and in England, we hope you will allow us to intercede on his behalf, and earnestly to entreat that you will grant his request. The state of our treasuries this day is as follows:

State of the treasuries—8th May 1782.

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	5,98,477	8	4	
Khalsah	...	...	1,16,584	1	0	
						<hr/>
						7,15,061 9 4

Bills receivable

General Treasury						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	7,45,318	13	0	8,64,569	13	2
Khalsah	2,81,417	11	10	3,26,444	9	0
						<hr/>
						11,91,014 6 2

Mint

General Treasury	...	...	4,75,325	4	11	
Khalsah	...	...	94,649	10	6	
						<hr/>
						5,69,974 15 5

Unsorted Treasure

Khalsah from Rungpore						
Narranies	32,570					
Raujnagore	30,001					
		<hr/>				
	Rs. 62,571		Valued at 10 per			
			cent better than			
			current rupees	68,828	1	6
				<hr/>		
			Current rupees	25,44,879	0	5

The amount of appropriated sums as follows:

Balance account deposits ...	18,03,826	10	5
Do. Accountant General to the Mayor's Court ...	1,20,161	13	9
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertisement ...	45,117	0	8
Do. on account of the Church Wardens bearing a running interest by order of the Court of Directors	57,600	0	0
	<hr/>		
	20,26,705	8	10

The amount of the new loans as follows:

New bonded debt ...	1,50,29,951	1	6
Four per cent remittance loan 1780	19,26,900		
Do. do. 1781	18,57,600		
Do. do. 1782	2,99,700		
	<hr/>		
	40,84,200	0	0
Annuities ...	1,06,730	0	0
	<hr/>		
	1,92,20,881	1	6

In this sum is included

in ingots to amount of current rupees	3,37,742	9	1
in rupees of sorts sent to Mint	68,087	4	8
	<hr/>		
Current rupees	4,05,829	13	9

Fort William,  
the 9th May 1782.

[We have the honor to be etc.]

## LETTER DATED 15 JULY 1782

*Provision for investment by private subscription—madrasah set up at Calcutta—controversy between the Mint Master of Calcutta and the Assay Master of Madras—Colonel Kelly recommended for the post of Geographer*

*to the Company—dispute regarding the distribution of Bijaigarh booty—meritorious services of Colonel Owen.*

### PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We had addressed you last, from this Department, in a letter dated the 9th May, which was written to go by the *Resolution*, Captain Poynting, but that ship, after quitting the river, was found to be in such a leaky condition that she could not proceed, and having put back has since been unloaded and discharged from the Company's service, until she shall have undergone a thorough repair and be rendered capable of undertaking the voyage with greater certainty.

2. The ships *Hinchinbrooke*, *Lord Mulgrave*, *Deptford* and *Tartar* are safely arrived here since our last and we have received by them several packets for this Presidency, which contained only copies of your former advices.

3. The *Trial* and *Fox* packets are likewise arrived, by the former of which we have received your commands of the 29th August 1781, and 1st January 1782.

4. It appearing that a Prize Master had been placed on board the *Hinchinbrooke* by order of Commodore Johnstone, whose consent it was necessary to obtain for the disposal of the cargo, we have mutually agreed that the whole should be delivered according to its original consignment, and all the private property released on security being given by the owners or a deposit made in the Company's treasury to the value of one eighth part of the amount, rated at an advance of 50 per cent upon the prime cost in England, to answer the claim of salvage made on behalf of the recaptors, if it shall be given in their favor by a legal decision in England.

5. The ship *Queen*, which was sent with a cargo of grain to Fort St. George in March last, has been dispatched from thence to Fort Marlborough and China being laden with military stores and ordnance for the former place to prevent any further ill consequences from an unfortunate loss they had met with from lightning, which struck one of their powder magazines and blew up a large part of the arsenal, etc.

6. We are sorry to inform you that the *Fortitude*, which was dispatched from hence upon a destination to Fort St. George with the *Queen*, but was obliged to return and could not sail again till some days after her, has been taken by *La Fine*, a French frigate of 36 guns, about the latitude of Madrass. The *Yarmouth*, a Company's armed ship, has also been captured by the same frigate on her way from Madrass to Negapatam, laden with stores and provisions for that garrison.



7. By our letter of the 8th of April last overland, and those addressed to you soon afterwards to go by the *Resolution*, you were advised of the original plan which we had agreed to adopt for the provision of an investment for this season by subscription to be limited to eighty lacks of current rupees. Copies of the plan itself were forwarded to you by each dispatch.

Consultation  
15th April.

8. Being afterwards advised that the above mode was liable to strong and weighty objections affecting both the property of the individuals who should engage in it and the Charter of the Company, and no subscriptions having been offered upon it, we thought it necessary to adopt another plan, more certain in its effect, which accordingly makes a number in the packet.

Consultation 10th  
May.

9. The substance of this plan is that the subscribers shall advance their money at stated periods for the provision of a well chosen investment, and be entitled to bills of exchange upon you for the same on the 31st December next, at 2 shillings per current rupee,  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths payable at 365 days after sight and  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths, with interest on the whole, up to the 31st December 1783 at 730 days sight.

10. Having submitted a copy of this plan to the Board of Trade before it was published, we offered to avail ourselves of the services of the whole Board for carrying it into execution, but conceiving ourselves ultimately accountable for adopting it, and in some measure answerable for its success, we thought it necessary to reserve the controuling and superintending power over the provision of the goods in our own hands and accordingly called on the Board of Trade to know if they would accept of the trust to be held under our authority.

Consultations 10th,  
16th and 20th May.

11. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Board of Trade cheerfully came into our proposal, and having received from us a list of cotton piece goods containing such a selection of the manufactures as we thought were most likely to turn out profitably in England, publications were immediately issued for the receipt of proposals to contract for these articles, deliverable free of all charge at the Company's warehouse in Calcutta by a certain time. Contracts have accordingly been concluded at a very reduced rate upon the prices of the former provision, and the quantities being left indefinite for want of time to fix them before the season set in, we mean to regulate them entirely by the list of goods (specifying by a particular mark those articles which sell for a profit in England) which we have received from you by the *Trial* packet.

16th, 20th May.  
6th and 17th June.

12. Our plan having been adopted and partly carried into effect before the arrival of your orders by the *Trial*, it was impossible for us, without creating some confusion, to follow the rule you had therein prescribed to us for opening the trade in raw silk to individuals, and allowing them to transport it to England by the Company's ships, but

we have done what is more than equivalent to it; we have effected such a considerable reduction in the former price of this commodity that we trust our next consignments will be found sufficiently cheap and well provided to remove every objection which you had conceived to the importation of it on the Company's account.

13. The original loan taken up for the service of this investment was 80 lacks of current rupees, of which 50 lacks have been allotted to the provision of cotton piece goods and 30 lacks to provision of raw silk and silk piece goods. The article of saltpetre we have determined to continue the manufacture of at Patna on the Company's account independant of the subscription investment, and to transport as much of it as possible to England by all the ships which shall be dispatched, in order to yield a separate resource for your own immediate occasions.

14. After making this arrangement it appeared that some articles of the investment and the charges of shipping the whole after its delivery in Calcutta had not been provided for, and several tenders of saltpetre were also made to us by persons who, in consequence of the prohibition which agreeably to your orders we had laid on the exportation of that article, were deprived of all other means of disposing of it; as we considered the Company bound, in some measure, to prevent the ruin or distress of the dealers in saltpetre, who, when the sudden embargo was published, had large quantities on hand, we authorized the Board of Trade to purchase the tenders which were made at a moderate price, and for these different purposes we agreed to augment the loan for the investment to one crore of rupees. The subscribers to the additional 20 lacks will not be entitled to receive their bills until the 31st January next.

15. Wishing to unite our endeavours heartily with the Board of Trade in the choice and provision of an investment which, from the strictest attention to the quality and the greatest possible abatement of the prices, was likely to answer the end, we designed of discharging all the drafts which it would be necessary to make upon it, and yield a considerable profit beyond that amount, besides furnishing freight for your ships and a supply of goods to the English market. We thought it might be conducive to this grand object, and at the same time prove an assurance of your confidence, to require from the President and members of the Board of Trade a written declaration signed upon honor, which they have accordingly given, that they will neither derive nor receive any advantage or emolument whatsoever from the provision of this investment or from any engagements or transactions respecting it, except their allowed commission, nor knowingly suffer any persons under their authority to take any undue advantage.

16. In order to secure to the Board of Trade a fair and honorable reward for their faithful and undeviating services in the execution of this branch of duty, you will find that we have stipulated, as far as it was in our power to do, by the last article of the publication that the President and members, resident in Calcutta during the provision of this invest-

Consultation 10th  
May.

ment, should with your approbation be allowed a commission of 5 per cent on the produce of the sales in England, after the manner in which you gratify your supercargoes at Canton, to be divided in the proportions of their respective salaries. This is a consideration which we have no doubt the superiority of the present investment, owing to the united and strenuous exertions of this Government and the Board of Trade, will easily afford to yield them. On this principle, and in full confidence of obtaining your acquiescence in a promise which appeared to us so equitable a recompence for the steady and devoted attention of your senior servants, bound under such an obligation to the interests of the Company, we have been induced to hold out the expectation of it to them, and now earnestly request that you will approve of our intention and allow the commission to them accordingly, paying the amount of it to their respective agents in England in the proportions above mentioned.

17. Although the several contracts for goods have been referred to and confirmed ultimately by us we meant only to reserve to ourselves a general superintending and controuling power in the provision of this investment, to be used when it might tend to promote the public interests, and to avoid every interference in the detail which might only obstruct them and which is moreover the peculiar province of your Board of Trade.

18. We are happy to find that by adopting the present plan we have anticipated your wishes and so nearly hit upon the measures prescribed to us by your commands of the 29th August 1781, which we have since received, that we venture to assure ourselves of receiving your hearty and entire approbation.

19. We have only further to add on this subject that the plan, in its present form, was no sooner published than the amount of the subscription immediately filled, and names were added to a much greater extent to whom we thought it necessary to promise a preference in any future loan of this kind. The first upon the list were accordingly admitted to make up the additional sum of 20 lacks when we resolved to encrease the loan to 1 crore of rupees as above mentioned.

20. The Madrassa<sup>1</sup> or College for the promotion of oriental learning, which was established by our resolution of the 18th April 1781, having been placed upon a proper and regular footing, and  
 Consultation 3rd June. the buildings for that purpose completed, we have assigned the revenues of certain villages in the neighbourhood amounting to rupees 1200 per month to its support and have no doubt that it will be found fully to answer the end of its institution.

21. We have formerly represented to you the particulars of a difference subsisting between our Mint Master and the  
 Consultations 29th April, 27th May [...] July. Assay Master at Fort St. George, in their reports upon the value and produce of gold bullion remitted to that Presidency, and at the instance of Mr. Paxton, our Mint Master,

we beg leave to forward to you samples of that gold, in order to have it assayed at the Tower for your satisfaction in deciding the controversy between these officers. If you think proper we beg leave to refer to their correspondence concerned on our consultations as noted in the margin.

22. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, of the Madras establishment, has lately made us a tender of a most valuable collection of charts and surveys of the Carnatic, formed and procured by him during  
 Consultation 27th May. a long course of service in that country. We have individually examined them. From the apparent accuracy with which they are drawn and the utility of the plan on which they are constructed, being calculated both for present use and the easiest reception of future improvements until the provinces in Decan and Carnatic shall have been completely surveyed, they appear to us a most important and useful acquisition, especially as they comprize the scene of our present military operations in the Carnatic, and in this light we understand they have already proved a serviceable guide to General Sir Eyre Coote in regulating the motions of his army. We have therefore agreed to accept of them, as an acknowledgement of the sense we entertained of the work; and to afford some compensation to Colonel Kelly for the great expence which he must have been at in compiling them we resolved to make him a gratuity and to recommend him to you for the appointment of Geographer to the Company in the Carnatic. In the meantime we have requested that he will continue to furnish us with such further additions to the geography of the countries which he has laid down as he may be able to obtain without prejudice or hindrance to his military duty as an officer, from his own observations and enquiries, for which we have promised to allow him a due recompense.

23. Captain John Buncle, late commander of the *Warren* cartel ship which was seized and detained by the French Government at Mauritius, has presented to us an account of the charges which  
 Consultation 23rd May. he incurred during his imprisonment on that island for the subsistence of himself, his officers and crew and for arrears of wages due to them respectively until their discharge from confinement. As the account upon the whole, considering as we must do that the ship was unwarrantably made a prize of and the hardships and losses of the parties severely felt by them, appeared very reasonable, we agreed to allow it, upon condition that Captain Buncle signed a paper of indemnification binding himself to refund the amount if at any time hereafter it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Court of Directors or of this Government that any act was committed by him which, according to the rules and custom of war, could warrant the Government of Mauritius in making the seizure which they did and in confining himself and his officers as prisoners of war, which Captain Buncle has accordingly complied with.

24. Having submitted our proceedings respecting the booty found in Beedjy Gur upon the surrender of that fortress to the Company,



together with the several answers from the officers concerned in the distribution of the said booty, to the Advocate General for his opinion upon the proper measures to be pursued for determining and establishing, by legal authority, the Company's right to this property, we thought it necessary to institute a suit at law against Major Arthur Balfour, the first of those officers who had signed the letter to the Board declining to submit their title to our decision; and the Attorney has given him notice to enter appearance which he has accordingly done. But in order to settle a more equitable division of the whole of the booty, in case it should be adjudged in favor of the captors, than the distribution made of it by themselves in a committee which they held upon the spot, we have appointed another committee consisting of all the field officers at the Presidency, who are no wise concerned in the issue, to decide upon the claims of those officers who were excluded from sharing by the former committee and have appealed to the Board for redress.

25. The proceedings of this committee have been closed and delivered in but we suspend our consideration of them, as well as of the general subject, until the cause, which is now in the course of trial, shall be determined.

26. Mr. Thomas Martin, whom you have been pleased to appoint to succeed to the office of Judge Advocate General, being arrived and having tendered his services to the Board in that line we thought it necessary to consider your intentions respecting him. No provision having been made for his subsistence until the vacancy happened, and as this might be a long interval, we appointed him Deputy Judge Advocate General, with the same pay and *batta* as are drawn by the principal in that office, and placed him immediately under his orders that he might inspect the proceedings and qualify himself to succeed by a previous knowledge and practice of the duties depending on the customs and habits of this service.

27. At the particular recommendation of the Commander in Chief in favor of Captain William Fowler, who has entirely lost the use of his limbs from the effect of the climate to which he was exposed, we have agreed to promote him to the rank of major, with which he will retire on the pension. In this instance we could not avoid granting the indulgence solicited to an object so truly deserving of compassion, but in order to prevent any applications of a similar nature from being made to us in future, we have thought it necessary to forbid them positively in general orders and declare our intention not to grant any promotions of this kind but on the most singular occasions of merit or sufferings.

[28] The services rendered by Lieutenant Colonel Owen<sup>2</sup> in the many expeditions which he has commanded under the orders of General Sir



Eyre Coote in the Carnatic are so meritorious that we doubt not the General has taken occasion to mention them in his correspondence with you. We cannot however pass them by unnoticed and the sense we entertain of his abilities and zeal as an officer is so great that we beg leave to point him out to you as deserving any favor or confidence which you may be pleased to bestow on him.

[29] We feel ourselves the more bound to bear this testimony in favor of Lieutenant Colonel Owen because we had promoted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Morgan, his immediate junior, to the local and brevet rank of colonel on his succeeding to the station of Colonel Parker, the second in command of our detachment under General Goddard at Bombay. This rank we granted on the same principle as Colonel Parker had held it before, without any intention, or eventual probability as we conceived, of injuring Lieutenant Colonel Owen whose line of duty could not, in the common course of things, bring him

Consultations 25th  
February, 11th March.

to act on the same immediate service with Colonel Morgan; but as this circumstance was mentioned to us by the Commander in Chief we explained it, as we hope, to his satisfaction and think it necessary also to notice it to you.

Fort William,  
the 15th July 1782.

We are etc.

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LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1782

*The loss of the Dartmouth—ill treatment of passengers of the Northumberland—letters of marque granted to the Warren—Captain McClary and John O'Donnel accused of murder of certain Malays—Lieutenant Alexander Murray given the chief command of the troops at Fort Marlborough—the new Hooghly channel—measures to avert famine at Madras—re-establishment of the Dacca mint—a public market for Calcutta—regulation against unlicensed liquor shops—Impey's letter to Secret Committee replying to the charges made against him by Francis—General Goddard's protest against the appointment of Colonel Morgan—rules for the re-instatement of army officers returning from leave—the Dutch Director Ross on parole sent to Europe—Sir Robert Chambers, Judge of the Supreme Court, resigns his post of Superintendent of the Chinsura Court.*

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. In addition to our Public Letter of the 15th of July, written to

go by the *Lively* but only now dispatched to you, we shall continue our advices to the present date.

2. We have received your letters by the *Trial* packet dated 29th August 1781 and 1st of January 1782, and by the *Worcester* dated the 25th and 29th of January. Mr. Stables, who was a passenger on board this ship, arrived here and took his [seat] in Council on the 11th ultimo.

3. The several ships now [dispatched] to you with cargoes are the *Rochford*, *Deptford*, *Lord Mulgrave* and *Tartar*, and the amounts of their invoices are:

				Current Rupees
<i>Rochford</i>	...	...	...	15,09,800
<i>Deptford</i>	...	...	...	16,19,900
<i>Lord Mulgrave</i>	...	...	...	16,05,420
<i>Tartar</i>	...	...	...	14,09,000

4. Captain Fiott made a request that we would dispatch the *Tartar* singly on account of her remarkable good sailing, but we thought there would be greater security against the enemy's frigates and privateers in despatching the four ships together, with orders to keep company; and having also your directions to this effect, we did not comply with Captain Fiott's request.

5. The ships which remain to be laden for Europe are the *Resolution*, *Hinchinbrooke*, *Worcester* and *Norfolk*.

6. The *Resolution* is in the hands of the carpenters to undergo a thorough repair previous to her being again laden, and an adjustment having taken place between the commander of the *Hinchinbrooke* and the Prize Master, who was put on board by Commodore Johnstone, we shall be enabled to send back these ships to you before this season is far advanced.

7. Several commanders of the ships, now here, have represented to us the loss of their surgeons and applied for others to supply their places. All that we could do for their relief was to make an offer that we would grant leave of absence to any surgeon or assistant surgeons belonging to this establishment whom they could [persuade] to go with them to Europe, and to recommend such persons to you for permission to return with their ranks, but could not allow them to continue in the receipt of their pay here during their absence; we therefore informed the captains that every expence would necessarily fall upon the owners of the ships.

8. We have heard with the utmost concern of the total loss of the ship *Dartmouth* and her cargoe upon the island of Carnicobar on

the 24th of June last. She sailed in company with the *Chapman* from Fort St. George in the beginning of that month, and in order to avoid the enemy's ships, which were supposed to be cruising off Ceylon, they steered an easterly course which brought them into that situation. We hope the *Chapman* will arrive with you before this, in which case you will already have been made acquainted with the particulars of this loss; otherwise we must beg to refer you to Captain Thompson's letter entered in the consultation noted in the margin. [. . .] of the passengers and crew were saved from the wreck and some of them continued their voyage in the *Chapman*.

9. We have the pleasure to inform you that the *Chesterfield*, which was sent here from Madras, has been returned thither with rice, the *Major* is just arrived from thence and the ships *Ganges*, *Calcutta*, *Alfred*, *Warren Hastings*, *Kent*, *Ann & Emelia*, and *Dutton* [left] for [from?] this place the 2nd ultimo. The *Royal Henry* was dispatched about the same time for Bo[m]bay].

10. The passengers who came from England in the *Northumberland* preferred a complaint to us against Captain Rees, ch[arging] him with want of attention to their diet [and] conveniences, and with other misbehaviour during their voyage. After a particular enquiry into these allegations the former part of them appeared to be so well established that we thought it necessary to pass a severe censure upon Captain Rees's conduct, the terms of which will be seen on our records referred to in the margin.

11. In consequence of the urgent request of the President and Council of Fort Marlborough for a ship to remove part of their pepper, we have sent thither the *Northumberland* laden with rice and stores; and she is to proceed afterwards with a cargo of pepper to Canton, which is intended as a remittance to the supercargoes in lieu of the opium laden on the *Betsey* for the service of the China investment, which was taken by a French privateer at Rhio as we before informed you.

12. For the purpose of yielding the President and Council at Fort Marlborough further tonnage to transport the great quantity of pepper which they have collected at that place, we agreed to freight the *Warren*, a large ship taken from the Dutch by Sir E. Hughes at Trincomaloy and tendered to us by the purchasers for this service, [and] loaded her from hence with rice and other articles for which that Presidency had indented, and recommended it to them to furnish her with a cargo of pepper for England. We enclose a copy of the charter of this ship; [copy] of the originals has been sent by her to Fort Marlborough.

13. We have granted letters of marque to the *Warren* containing the same restrictions respecting any violence which might be offered to the Chinese and Malay subjects etc., as you had introduced into the

19th August. agreement concluded with the owners of the *Prince William* when she was licensed to cruize in the eastern

seas. Complaints had been made to us of the abuse of those powers which we formerly granted to privateers fitted out at this port to act offensively against the enemy. We therefore resolved to cease issuing such commissions in future, and only deviated on the above occasion because

12th July. the ship was chartered for the Company. Two of the instances of complaint we allude to were made against

Captain McClary of the [*Dodalay*] and Mr. John O'Donnel of the *Death or Glory* for the murder of several Malays said to have perished in the sea. The allegations did not appear to be well founded against the former, but conceiving that there was sufficient cause for the trial of Mr. O'Donnel we sent him to Fort St. George for want of proper admiralty jurisdiction here; he was accordingly tried and acquitted.

14. You will please to observe that the exposed state of Fort Marlborough and our anxiety to extricate, as speedily as possible, so considerable a part of your property from thence induced us to adopt this measure, regarding the legality of which we had the sanction of your Advocate General's opinion; besides that we wished to encrease, as much as possible, the tonnage for carrying home your investment from hence.

15. A complaint of another nature was preferred to us against Captain McClary, but as this appeared to be a civil case in which we could not interfere we referred the party aggrieved to seek his redress at common law.

Consultation 30th  
September.

16. Mr. Botham a member of the Council at Fort Marlborough, who was lately here, being authorized by that Presidency represented to us the distress which they suffered from the death of Major Hutchins, their late Commander in Chief, for want of a proper person to succeed him, the person on whom this station devolved by seniority being totally unfit for such a trust. Mr. Botham therefore solicited an officer to be appointed from this establishment. He also applied to us to send an experienced officer to command the artillery at Fort Marlborough. We referred his letter to the Commander in Chief, at whose recommendation we promoted Lieutenant Alexander Murray, an old King's officer, to the rank of captain on this establishment, and ordered him to proceed to Fort Marlborough to take upon him the chief command of the troops, under that Presidency, with the local rank of major. We also appointed Mr. John McDonald, who was recommended to us as a good draftsman and a capable engineer, to be an ensign in that corps at Fort Marlborough. He sailed with Major Murray in the *Northumberland*. Neither the Commander in Chief nor the Commandant of Artillery have as yet recommended any officer who is willing to proceed thither to take the command of the artillery corps.

17. About five years ago we reported to you the pains we had taken



to establish the navigation of a new channel into this river, between the island of Saugor and the east side of the Longsand, which had been discovered and surveyed; we laid down buoys accordingly but the pilots, unwilling to give up the knowledge they possessed of the former channel, raised such an opposition to our endeavours that they could not be then made to adopt it by fair means, and while the old channel by Ingelee and Kedgerree was practicable we did not chuse to use any degree of compulsion.

18. The old channel however has been daily choaking up ever since and is now become almost impassable; we therefore ordered Mr. Ritchie<sup>1</sup>, our Marine Surveyor, to make a further examination of the new channel which, though the season of the year was unfavorable to the attempt, he sufficiently effected to shew its advantage over the former and to make us resolve on establishing the use of it in future; two leading buoys were immediately laid, those formerly fixed having been removed, and we have the pleasure to inform you that some of the largest ships trading to Bengal have already been carried out through this channel by the direction of these buoys only, without any danger or difficulty.

19. We think it so much to the credit of those who were the first promoters of this navigation, whether by the service or example, that we shall mention your [their] names for your information. Captain McClary, Commander of the ship *Doddaly*, was the first who made the trial of this passage when the survey had been but recently made, and only two buoys laid in all the long track. Mr. Green, Master in your pilot service who had assisted Mr. Ritchie in the survey, encouraged the attempt under these disadvantages, and himself conducted it. He has been rewarded by the Governor General, and the other pilots begin to be sensible of their former error.

20. The superiority of the new channel, exclusive of its immediate security for the passage of large ships, affords this further advantage that your Indiamen may hence forward be brought up to the neighbourhood of Culpee and completely laden there without the risk or inconvenience of lying in the open sea at the Burrabulla, which is a situation so unfavorable that it affords no shelter whatever from the violent winds which blow during all the months of March and April and May, when sloops can seldom approach near enough to deliver their cargoes on board, and vessels of all sizes run a continual risk of being driven from their anchors.

21. To the damages which your ships and the vessels laden with the goods have invariably sustained in the abovementioned season you will have known the few have received the complete loadings, until the [...] with the pilots require to enable them to take charge of them from that station, and frequently until months repeatedly recurred [*sic*], and it has been a constant practice for private ships of burthen to put to sea with deficient cargoes because of the dangers and delays attending the completion of them at Burrabulla.

22. We send you, by this packet, a copy of the draft of the channel



taken by Mr. Ritchie, and particularly explained by his report upon the subject to which we refer. We also beg leave to refer to the journal of the Master Attendant, who has been down the river since the fair season set in accompanied by the pilots who could be spared from the current service to ascertain and make a complete sounding of passage and to lay down the remainder of the buoys; an accurate survey of it is now forming by engineer officers appointed for that purpose, Mr. Ritchie having been sent to the Admiral as advised in our Secret Letter.

23. You will be informed by the President and Council at Fort St. George of the violent and dismal effects of a most severe gale of wind which happened there on the 15th of October. His Majesty's fleet, which was in the roads, put to sea on the first appearance of the gale and escaped from any heavy damage, except the *Superb* which lost all her masts; almost all the trading vessels which attempted to ride out the storm were either sunk or driven on shore and only a small part of their cargoes saved; the loss of grain in the roads, upon this unfortunate occasion, was estimated at upwards of 30,000 bags.

24. The President and Select Committee of Fort St. George, after this event, finding the prospect of famine<sup>2</sup> which threatened the settlement so immediate and alarming, thought it necessary to seize upon all the grain which should be imported for the public stores, paying the proprietors a very advanced price for the same by bills upon us. As the above measure promised no immediate encrease of importation at Madras, though it entailed a heavy additional expence on this Government, and in the end might fail of the desired effect by the detrimental restraint to individuals which it laid upon the disposal of their grain, we recommended it as our opinion that a free and open trade would be more likely to secure to the settlement of Fort St. George the relief they wished to obtain than any restraint whatsoever. And to prevent unnecessary competition here in procuring tonnage, which the exorbitant price fixed for rice at Madras was likely to create, a great enhancement of freight having been the immediate consequence of it, we forbid the Agent to take up any vessels, beyond his present engagements, on the Company's account, and resolved not to send any further supplies of rice to Fort St. George by public agency but on the Company's ships, leaving the trade entirely free to individuals. And in order to encourage them to pursue it with an unremitted spirit after the regulation made at Fort St. George should cease, we promised to give a fixed price of 120 Ps. per *garce*, payable by bills, for all the good cargo rice which should be delivered into store at that place, as a certain and last resort to the owners, leaving them at liberty to dispose of it on better terms, by private sale, if they had an opportunity.

25. Long previous to this we had called before us the captains of all the Indiamen which are now dispatched to you, and proposed to load their ships with grain immediately for Madras, in hopes they might be able to return early enough to save the season for Europe, but finding them averse to this measure, on account of the hazard of saving the season and the

Consultation 27th  
September.

certain strain of their ships by beating against the monsoon, we desisted from our intention. The *Chesterfield* was an exception to this rule. Captain Boswell informed us that he was destined to Bombay and China not to Bengal; we therefore ordered him to perform a trip to Madras with rice for the relief of that garrison, and shall afterwards send him to Bombay.

26. Notwithstanding the liberal contributions of charity which have been subscribed at this place and the established monthly allowance collected at Madras for the support of the poor native inhabitants of that settlement we are informed that our united endeavors have hitherto proved inadequate to their subsistence, as hundreds are daily expiring through want. Considering the present extreme scarcity of grain at Madras and the increased distresses of the people, which have been described to us in a most affecting manner, we have opened a charitable subscription at every station of the army and at each subordinate settlement. We have also taken upon us, in order to promote so laudable and humane a purpose, to subscribe in the Company's name 50,000 rupees. By these combined means we hope to save the lives of many poor wretches who must otherwise perish in the most miserable manner from the famine.

Consultation 27th September.

Consultation 7th October.

27. Having received information, which we depended on as authentic, that the *Alfred* and another ship, laden with grain at this port, had delivered their cargoes at Tranquebar, which were immediately bought up for the use of the French troops at Cuddalore, then reduced to the utmost distress, we thought it necessary, in order to prevent our enemies from being again supplied through the same channel, to publish a prohibition against the exportation of grain from Calcutta to any foreign settlement whatever. The Danish Government at Tranquebar, receiving intelligence of this order, have thought proper to remonstrate against it as founded on a report which was totally groundless, and to represent the exigency of their situation as very critical and alarming, since they depended solely on this country for support. In reply to their letter we have informed them that the prohibition was meant to extend only to the shipping of our own port, which we had a right to command and should certainly employ in the relief of our own establishments on the Coast preferably to all others, but we remarked to them that there were at that time vessels of their own nation lying in this river more than sufficient to supply the wants of their settlement for a long time to come. On this ground we also thought it our duty to refuse Mr. Bie, the Danish Chief at Fredericksnagore, when he applied to us for permission to freight and load English vessels with grain for Tranquebar.

Consultation 27th June.

Consultation 23rd September.

28. In consequence of the orders enacted by the late Act of Parliament, that all supplies to His Majesty's ships in India should be furnished by the Company, we thought it necessary, as the cold season which is

the only time for preparing many of the articles used by the fleet was set in, to appoint an agent for this service, under such  
 Consultation 28th October. regulations for his office as might be settled by you with the Navy Board in England. We accordingly appointed Mr. Stephen Sullivan to this charge.

29. A part of the last loan of 20 lacks, borrowed for the investment of this year, being unappropriated we agreed to purchase a quantity of Lucknow cloths which were tendered to us for the English market as the rates appeared reasonable. We wished both to introduce a new manufacture into the investment and to promote the production of a country, the interests of which are so immediately connected with those of the Company. The present occasion was the more favorable to our design because we understood that the assortment of the goods would bear a greater proportion of the coarser sort.

30. A proposal having been made to us at the same time by Mr. Lennox to furnish an additional quantity of indigo, fit for transportation to Europe, we authorized the Board of Trade to contract with him for 700 maunds for this season under certain conditions.

31. The Board of Trade, in consequence of the death of Mr. Becher, one of their members, being in doubt whether his vacancy should be filled up immediately by the next senior civil servant upon the spot or  
 Consultation 25th November. kept open for the arrival of one of those gentlemen whom you had appointed to succeed to seats at that Board, desired our opinion on this question. As it appeared to us by your original orders for the establishment of the Board of Trade, which you must have always had in view in granting any eventual appointment to it, that every vacancy ought to be filled up immediately by the senior servants present we gave this decision upon the point referred to us, and Mr. John Sumner has in consequence been appointed.

32. Mr. Cottrell has signified his desire to resign his seat in the Board of Trade and to proceed to Europe, which, according to a letter we have just received from them, he will be allowed to do.

33. Having thought it expedient, as you will observe by our Revenue Consultations, to re-establish the mint at Dacca, we gave the superintendence of it to Mr. Becher who had been appointed Commercial Chief at that station, and the coinage of gold *mohurs* and *sicca* rupees took place accordingly under his direction. The samples which he sent down were favorably reported upon by the Assay Master, but to our great concern his death prevented his carrying our design into complete execution.

34. Mr. Tirretta some time ago laid before us the plan of a public market which he proposed to erect in the town of Calcutta. We submitted it to the Committee of Revenue for their opinions, if the grant applied for would be attended with any prejudice to the revenue or if the design

appeared to them in any wise objectionable. Upon the recommendation of the Committee we have agreed to allow Mr. Tirretta to establish a public market place with proper buildings upon it for stalls, and the Committee is directed to conclude the necessary agreements with him accordingly.

Consultation 26th  
September.

35. We have been under the necessity of proposing a regulation to be passed into a bye law for the restriction of shops allowed to retail spirituous liquors<sup>3</sup> to the inhabitants of this town. Arrack shops had become so numerous and licentious that they were grown into a perfect nuisance. Some were established even within the precincts of the hospital, and the enticement held out, in all parts of the town and its precincts, to licentiousness and intoxication in the soldiers of the garrison had proved so ruinous to the constitutions of the few Europeans who composed this corps that we thought it high time to put a stop to such a destructive evil by placing the shops under proper control and regulation. The heads for a bye law will be seen in our proceedings noted in the margin.

Consultation 26th  
August.

36. You will receive by this packet a letter addressed to you by the Chief Justice, Sir Elijah Impey, which he has thought it necessary to write in consequence of one which he understands your Secret Committee received from Mr. Francis, under date the 3rd of April 1779. The Chief Justice in sending this address to you, with the several affidavits which accompany it, through our channel left it open for our perusal and requested that a copy of the affidavits might be entered in our proceedings, which has been accordingly done. In his letter to us he has also touched another subject arising from his acceptance of the office of Judge of the Sudder Dewanne Adawlut. This we have taken up more at large in our letter from the Revenue Department.

Consultation 19th  
August.

Consultation 4th  
November.

37. When we thought it necessary, in obedience to your orders, to stop the extra allowance granted to Sir John Day, your Advocate General, which you disapproved of, he relied so much upon your more favorable consideration of his case, when it should come before you, as stated in his letters and referred to you by us, that he solicited to have the allowance continued to him in the interim; we offered to comply with his request provided he would sign an obligation to refund the amount which he might receive in case of your confirming your former orders. Not chusing at that time to sign to such a condition the allowance continued to be withheld from him, but having since signified his acquiescence in our proposal and executed an instrument by which he binds himself to repay the amount that may be issued to him on account of this extra allowance if you further disapprove of it, and in consequence of your orders for that purpose a demand shall be made on him for the same within the period of two years from the date of the present dispatch, we took off the suspension of it and ordered the arrears likewise to be paid to

Consultations 13th  
and 17th June.

General Letter  
29th December 1781.



him. We therefore wait your ultimate decision on this point, and request that you will be pleased to transmit us your orders in time to produce their due effect.

38. You will find by our proceedings in the Department of Inspection that we had been necessitated to make considerable retrenchment in the charges contained in the accounts of General Goddard. We had also reason to disapprove of the great premium which he paid to the shroffs for passing his bills on this Government as it defeated our endeavors to make remittances to the Malabar coast from hence at a moderate rate of exchange. We therefore forbade him positively to grant any further drafts on us, and desired he would depend upon our endeavors only for his supplies. He acknowledged the receipt of our orders in a letter dated 1st of May last, and promised to adhere to them. From that period we have made considerable remittances by bills to Bombay but General Goddard, notwithstanding his promise, has continued to draw upon us at the same unfavorable rate of exchange to which he had formerly yielded. We thought it equitable therefore to debit his account for the difference between this rate and the exchange at which bills were procurable here, not chusing to throw a discredit upon his station or our own transaction by refusing to accept his drafts.

39. We had transmitted particular directions to General Goddard from the Inspection Department for curtailing the enormous charges of his detachment, and we are inclined to believe that if his attention could have been confined to that particular object he would have been able to effect considerable savings to the Company, but the superior command to which he had been appointed by you so far removed him from the immediate charge of the Bengal Detachment and from our separate and sole authority and controul that we found it incompatible with our views of oeconomy, after the service for which he had been specially appointed to the command of our detachment had terminated by a peace with the Marattas, to continue him in it. We had it likewise in contemplation to recall the detachment to Bengal as soon as circumstances would admit of it, the Presidency of Bombay having entertained a force fully adequate to their own necessities independantly of this corps, which being on a different establishment was of course more expensive than home raised troops; and we consider it also material to efface the prejudices of the native troops to foreign service by allowing the men who composed this detachment and had been long absent from their country and connections to return and enjoy the benefits we proposed for them.

40. For the above several reasons we appointed Colonel Charles Morgan, the officer who had succeeded Colonel Parker in the rank of second in command of the detachment, to relieve General Goddard in the chief command of it. We were actuated in this measure purely by a regard for the public interests. We could place a stronger reliance in the endeavors of an officer in the immediate command of the detachment who was entirely subordinate to our own authority and responsible



in a higher degree for the due accomplishment of our wishes, because his constant residence with the troops and the uninterrupted attention which he could give to the duties of his station enabled him to watch the progress of his orders and to guide them in their issue. Colonel Morgan's first offer of his services to join the detachment at Bombay, in consequence of which he was appointed thither, is entered in Consultation 7th September 1781; and on his late promotion he pledged himself to us, in the strongest manner, to effect every possible reduction of expence which could be made. In the event of the return of these troops it could never be expected that General Goddard should quit his superior station of Commander in Chief at Bombay to accompany them.

41. We are thus particular on this subject because General Goddard seems to conceive it a great hardship that he should be deprived of the command of the detachment in favor of another, and has written us a strong remonstrance against the appointment of Colonel Morgan. We trust however that, on a candid review of our motives and proceedings, we shall not be taxed with injustice to General Goddard, with inattention to your special appointment of that officer nor with partiality towards his successor Colonel Morgan, because we are conscious that neither of these principles had the least influence upon our conduct.

42. The particular savings of expence as far as we are yet able to ascertain them will appear on the proceedings of the Board of Inspection. We have received a letter from Colonel Morgan informing us that he had ordered 700 of the carriage bullocks to be sold and should dispose of many of the camels as soon as he could do it with advantage.

43. We have received a letter from General Goddard containing applications from Lieutenant Colonel Anneslie Baillie of the artillery, and Captain D. Watherston of the infantry for permission to resign the Company's service and proceed to England, the latter for the benefit of his health, of the weak state of which he produce[d] a certificate, and the former though he alledged ill health as a secondary cause seems to have been principally urged to his resignation by Colonel Morgan's appointment.

44. Mr. Petrie who had taken his passage for Europe in the *Dartmouth* Consultation 19th November. *Dartmouth* quitted that ship at Fort St. George where she was unexpectedly detained a long time and returned here; on his arrival he petitioned to be readmitted into the service with his former rank which we accordingly agreed to.

45. Mr. John Stormonth, a surgeon in your service, who was a passenger on board the *Dartmouth* proceeding to England for his health, after the loss of the ship returned to this place. On his petition we have readmitted him to his rank, and in consideration of his misfortune have granted him the arrears of pay which would have been due to him had he remained in Bengal.

46. Mr. G. M. Kenderdine, who was ordered to proceed as surgeon of the *Resolution* to Europe since the return of that ship, has desired to be excused from this duty and admitted to his former station in the service, which we have also complied with.

Consultation 30th September.

47. The *Warren* being in want of a surgeon we admitted Mr. Thomas Morris, assistant surgeon, to proceed in charge of that office, and in consequence of the urgency of the case 26th September. allowed him to draw his pay and *batta* upon this establishment until his arrival in Great Britain, from which time the owners of the ship are to be at such further charge as he may be intitled to demand.

48. Many of the officers whom you have lately restored to the service after spending several years in England have returned to this country and immediately laid claim to the first vacant commands which their rank gave them a title to, in preference to those officers who though junior on the list of the army had, by a continued series of service in India, risen to be next in succession to such commands before the return of the senior officers, and from a longer period of actual duty possessed better pretensions to them. We have therefore thought it necessary to establish it as a rule that every officer returning from England though he retain his original rank shall forfeit his title of preference to vacant commands, unless his period of actual service in India, deducting that of his absence from the date of his resignation till his return, but allowing 2 years' grace for such as have been at home for their health, shall be equal to that of the officers next in regular succession to those commands.

49. Lieutenant Edward Dawson, who commands the Cadet Corps, having been represented to us by the Commander in Chief as peculiarly fit for that arduous and invidious station, and recommended to us to be allowed the brevet rank of captain so essential to adding weight to his authority and command, we accordingly promoted him but confined his rank to the corps which he commanded, and forbade his being employed on any service where he would take precedence or command of those subalterns who were by right his seniors on the establishment.

50. This officer has since been involved in a dispute with Captain Foster, an officer lately deceased, which from the circumstances attending the progress and issue of it we are sorry to say was, in some measure, disgraceful to both parties. Captain Dawson was tried by a general courtmartial and sentenced to be cashiered. On a perusal of the proceedings of the court, which for that reason we recommend to your attention, though we could not acquit him we conceived the judgement hard and unmerited, and therefore withheld our approbation of it.

Consultation 4th December.

51. The Commander in Chief having applied for leave of resigna-

tion for Ensign Holdcroft, who was under the necessity of soliciting this indulgence to avoid the disgrace of being tried and cashiered by a general courtmartial, we accordingly granted it, but we think it necessary to be particularly pointed in notifying this circumstance to you lest Mr. Holdcroft should at any future period, when the memory of his offence may have been obliterated from all but his own mind, petition to be again restored to the service, as having only resigned it upon some casual plea which no longer existed, instances having happened of officers quitting the service from a similar cause and watching an opportunity shortly after to return to it, when by being appointed to a different corps they have evaded the trial and disgrace which they had been afraid to meet.

52. The attornies of Mr. Barwell applied to us for payment of the bills of exchange which had been drawn on you from hence in his favor (£30,000), they being returned protested; they also demanded the interest due upon the amount from the date of the bills until others should be granted. We ordered new bills to be made out in conformity to your orders and were under the necessity of complying with their requisition for interest.

Consultation 15th July. 53. A similar application with similar effect has been made to us by the attorney of Mr. Francis.

54. A particular request having been made of us to grant bills of exchange upon you for a small property which Mr. Roberts, late of your Court, had remaining in this country we could not refuse our acquiescence and bills will accordingly be given to his agent for the same.

55. Mr. Donaldson, agent for the widow of the late Mr. John Stewart, has represented to us the distressful situation of that lady from being unable to draw home the property of her deceased husband which remains in this country. It appears that she petitioned your Court for permission to remit £1500 every season through the Company's cash until the whole should be realized in England. This you granted her for one year, but your order to us has not been repeated. We have nevertheless agreed to indulge her with bills for this season. All these bills will be drawn, according to your directions, by the latter ships of the season.

56. Some of the commanders of your ships have applied to us to extend the usual privilege of certificates to which they are entitled for money paid into our treasury, but we thought it proper to refuse our compliance on account of the heavy drafts which would necessarily be made on you in payment of the loan for the investment.

57. Captain Jonathan Court, commanding the *Fox* packet, from his

long services and station in your service, being under different[sic] circumstances, we have granted him certificates for the amount of the ordinary privilege possessed by the commanders of your Indiamen, which he was particularly desirous of obtaining for the purpose of remitting money to complete the shares of his ship. We have also allowed him to pay in the amount due on his certificates for his former voyage in the *Prince of Wales*.

58. Mr. G. G. Townsend, late 2nd officer of the *Fox* packet, having, as he informs us, been robbed of the certificates which were granted him for the amount of his privilege we agreed to give him others on condition of his indemnifying the Company against the appearance of the former, which he declares were not endorsed by him.

59. Messrs. Uhtoff, Fawcett, Broughton and Crow, writers on the Bombay establishment, having been brought by the *Chesterfield* to this place and no immediate opportunity offering for them to obtain a passage to Bombay we have employed them in the Secretary's office, and granted them an allowance of 300 rupees per month each to defray their necessary expences.

Consultation 7th  
October.

60. The following officers have resigned the Company's service in order to return to England by the ships of this season, viz., Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Camac; Major William Jones; Major Moses Crawford; Captain James Smith for the adjustment of his private affairs; Lieutenant P. Combault to receive the pension, being invalided.

Consultation 14th  
October.  
Consultation 7th  
October.

61. Having nearly collected in the Dutch investment we thought it proper to dissolve the establishments made for that purpose at Patna, Dacca and Calcapore and to allow only one person to remain at each until the whole should be collected and sent down. We hope soon to be able to ship it off with a particular account for your information, and shall then further reduce the establishment of the commissaries.

62. We have granted permission to Mr. Ross, late Director at Chinsurah, to take his passage for Europe, by a neutral ship, on his parole of honor.

63. We have thought it necessary to send Monsieur Dupare, a French prisoner of war, on board the *Mulgrave* to be conveyed to England. He has been some time under restraint here on suspicion of having instigated the *lascars* to mutiny on board the *Resolution*, Captain Poynting, in which ship he arrived here from Madras, and because his papers, which were searched, contained many things improper for a prisoner of war to take notes of or to relate, and that they were intended for circulation is strongly presumed from the number of copies which he had taken with his own hand.



64. We have ordered the Dutch prisoners of war, who remained in confinement here, to be distributed on the ships now under dispatch, and lists of them will be forwarded to you by each ship on which they embark.

65. The Commissioners at Chinsura have stated to us a claim of considerable amount which in justice was due from Mr. Rader Maker, late Chief of the Dutch factory at Patna, on account of advances charged in his accounts for the opium allotted to that Company and consequently received by him from the Dutch funds but not actually paid. We have ordered the amount to be demanded from him, and in our next we mean to give you a more particular account of this affair.

66. Sir Robert Chambers, who had been appointed to the superintendence of the court of justice established for the convenience of the conquered settlements at Chinsurah, has thought proper to resign this station, conceiving that his holding it might be deemed incompatible with his duty as a judge of the Supreme Court. We have requested that he will continue in the functions of it for a short time until we shall be able to form such arrangements as may prevent any inconvenience from his giving it up.

67. The dispatches from the Board of Trade being this instant sent in we observe with surprize, by the 20th paragraph of their letter to you, dated the 28th ultimo, that they give you a caution which implies a possible failure in the investment now under provision, and if suffered to pass without further notice might alarm you unnecessarily for the amount which will be realized of the investment or the debasement of its goods, from the tardiness of our advances. We nevertheless venture to assure you that no detriment shall be sustained on this account. We believe that several of your members well know, from local observation, that the usual advances for the provision of the investment have never been made with any strict regularity, and that the manufactures have not been debased from this cause. The fact is that many of the payments which we had to receive from the subscribers were made by transfers of demands which they had upon our treasury, and of course the money never came into our hands, but the Board of Trade have had orders in their possession upon the treasury for the amount of the advances due to them, and these have been liquidated as fast as our means would admit of it, which upon the whole you will find has not, by any means, been comparatively tardy. Particular accounts of the advances made to the Board of Trade in the course of this season and of the last make numbers in the packet for your observation.

68. By the account for the present season it appears that the Board of Trade have received from us, in a period of less than 4 months, the sum of current rupees 51,68,384, which is not very far short of the proportions which are due to them, and greatly exceeds any payments made to them in a much longer space of time last season. The rigid steps which we found it necessary to adopt to render this investment a profitable



concern to the Company after payment of the drafts which will be made upon it, might induce the Board of Trade to expect the strictest punctuality on our side in issuing the advances for it, and we fancy has given rise to their remarks though the failure was inconsiderable and unavoidable.

69. In our letter per *Osterly* dated 30th November 1778, we took the liberty of mentioning to you that the Accomptant General to the Revenue Department had thought it incumbent upon him to point out to us the merits of Mr. Thomas Ivory, who had long been employed under him, and we mentioned Mr. Ivory as being a person worthy to be received into your service. It is now near ten years that he served in that office, during which time he has conducted himself with the greatest assiduity and has shewn the most unwearied attention to business. We cannot help again recommending Mr. Ivory to your notice and we hope that you will do him the honor to appoint him a writer on this establishment; it will be a reward he has been long ambitious to acquire for his past services, and will add to your list of servants one who, we are convinced, will do credit to our recommendation.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Board of Ordnance*

Paragraphs to be inserted in the General Letter to the  
Honourable the Court of Directors

78. We have the honour to transmit herewith the ledger of the  
Ordnance Department for 1780/1, and a general return  
No. 1. of the ordnance and military stores which remained  
No. 2. in the several magazines and that were attached to the  
corps composing the army on this establishment the 30th April 1781,  
with an account of short deliveries of military stores  
No. 3-7. imported by the ships *Hinchinbrooke*, *Blandford*,  
*Mulgrave*, *Deptford* and *Tartar*.

79. We also transmit an indent for certain articles required by the  
Agent for the manufacture of gun powder for the  
No. 8. use of the works under his direction, with instructions  
No. 9. which he has drawn out for the gentleman superin-  
tending the Canon Company's works for casting [the] six iron sylinders  
included in his application. We request you will be pleased to order  
the supply of these articles by the first opportunity; we are induced to  
make this request earnestly on account of the necessity there is of afford-  
ing the Agent every assistance in our power to enable him to answer  
the heavy calls upon him for powder for our own consumption and store,  
and for supplying Fort St. George and His Majesty's fleet.

Fort William,  
7th December 1782.

We are etc.

*ENCLOSURE 1**(Vide paragraph 36)*

To the Honourable the Court of Directors.

[1] I have the honour of inclosing you a copy of a letter which I understand was written to your Select Committee by Philip Francis Esqr., late a Counsellor of this Presidency. If I am irregular in my correspondence I hope you will attribute it to my anxiety to refute, in the most open manner, insinuations contained therein, which are levelled at my reputation by innuendoes which cannot and which I do not wish to be misunderstood. This I am confident you will think fully done to your complete conviction by the two affidavits which I have annexed thereto.

[2] To the truth of those affidavits, as far as they relate to me, and that everything is set forth therein which can in any wise concern me I am ready to add my own oath.

[3] I have requested your Governor General and Council to record the whole on their proceedings, and have taken the liberty of addressing the Court of Directors, at large, rather than your Select Committee to which Mr. Francis has addressed his letter, that I may have as full a reparation for the injury, which has been done me, as the nature of the case will admit, by bringing to a more public attention not only my own vindication but both the spirit and mode with which the gentleman has practised the conveying secret informations, much more calculated to defame than to accuse, to instill suspicion than to establish guilt.

[4] That the reparation cannot be adequate to the injury I have received, I have to lament. The writer of that letter knew as well as I do the force of first impressions, the weakness of defences made at a distant period and the improbability of their being read candidly, or even coming to the hands of all who have imbibed prejudices.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient humble servant,  
(Signed) E. Impey.

Calcutta,  
8th August 1782.

*ENCLOSURE 2*

To the Honourable Governor General and the Gentlemen of the Council.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

[1] I hereby take the liberty of enclosing to you a copy of a letter



Elijah Impey



which has lately come to my hands, the original of which I understand was written by Philip Francis Esqr., late a member of your Honourable Board, to the Select Committee of the Court of Directors, with the intent of fixing on me the imputation of what I esteem the meanest species of corruption; when you have perused it you will not be surprized at my anxiety to refute the insinuations contained in it, which is fully done by the affidavits which I have caused to be annexed to it. To those affidavits, as far as they relate to me, I am ready and willing to add my own confirmation on oath.

[2] It being necessary to communicate the copy of Mr. Francis's letter to Messrs. Fraser and Bayne for the purpose of procuring their affidavits in answer to such parts of the letter as concerned me, they have desired to add to their affidavits such matters as they have thought necessary to clear away imputations which they think cast on them by the same letter, and to deny some facts positively asserted therein.

[3] I have likewise written a letter, in which these are inclosed, to the Court of Directors, which I send to you unsealed. The purpose of this part of my address to you is to request that you will, after having read the whole, replace the several inclosures, seal it and permit it to be transmitted to the Court of Directors by your next dispatch for Europe, and if it be not irregular that copies of the whole may be entered on your proceedings.

[4] I have learnt from report, but not from any letters which I have received from England, that the same gentleman has accused me before a committee of the House of Commons of having committed an offence against the Act of the 13th of His present Majesty, by having accepted as a compromise with the Governor General from your Honourable Board the office of judge of the Suddur Dewanny Adawlut with a large salary annexed thereto. The acceptance of the salary and not of the office I suppose to be charged as the crime.

[5] The Governor General and Council are individually subjected to the same restrictions, with regard to emoluments, in the same clauses in the Act and by the same words as the judges. Yet two of the Counsellors (one within a year after the Act past and before he proceeded to Bengal) have been appointed openly by the East India Company Commanders in Chief of the forces in India with considerable salaries, and have received and enjoyed their salaries. I could not imagine after an office with a salary had been thus accepted by gentlemen under the same restrictions as I am, with the knowledge of the King's ministers, of the Parliament and of the whole nation, and after they were suffered to receive the emoluments of their offices without molestation, that the acceptance of an office of great trust and real business, though with a salary, could be deemed illegal in me. For I cannot conceive, if the Statute prohibits a Counsellor from accepting an office with emoluments, that the appointment having been made publicly and notoriously could alter the essence of the fact itself and except it out of the law; though as this past not



only without censure, but with the full acquiescence of His Majesty's ministers, the Parliament and the nation at large, it was surely reasonable to infer that it was never esteemed to be within the Act.

[6] But though I never entertained an idea of its being an offence against the Act I had scruples, from other motives, against applying the salary to my own use until the whole circumstances of the business should be perfectly known in England by those whose esteem for my character and conduct I was anxious to preserve, and by whose judgments I was resolved to be guided as to the propriety of retaining the emoluments of the office. With this resolution I apprized you by a letter, which I addressed to you on the 5th of July 1781, the first I had the honor of writing to you after you had annexed a salary to the office; to which letter and your answer to it of the same date I take the liberty to refer you. On the same principles I had, long before writing that letter to you, and immediately after my acceptance of the office in October 1780, and before any salary was annexed to it, informed the Lord High Chancellor of the appointment. Sometime in January 1781, it was communicated to me by your Secretary that you had been pleased to annex a salary of 5,000 *sicca* rupees to the office of this. And with my resolution not to apply the salary to my own use, if it should be thought improper, I informed the Lord High Chancellor and His Majesty's Attorney General by letters dated in April 1781, and having for that purpose procured copies from your office of all your proceedings, relative as well to the provincial as Sudder Dewannee Adawluts, I forwarded them in the same letters to England. These several letters were sent, by the first conveyance, from hence after each respective event had taken place. I wrote on the same subject and in the same manner to many of my friends.

[7] I did not write to His Majesty's Secretaries of State because as the whole of your proceedings must be transmitted to one of them these amongst the rest must have come efficiently before them, and could not escape their notice, though mixed with other voluminous matter, if they had given occasion either for censure or doubt respecting the propriety of it.

[8] As your proceedings in the course of business would not only be subjected to the East India Company but to His Majesty's Secretaries of State, as I had disclosed the whole to the Lord High Chancellor and His Majesty's Attorney General, and as the duties of the office were performed publicly, I must know that this transaction could not be kept a secret; from thence I trust a fair deduction may be made that I at least did not think I was doing that which was criminal.

[9] Sir Robert Chambers, having accepted from your Honourable Board the office of Chief Justice of Chinsurah with a salary annexed thereto, will evince that his opinion did not differ from mine with regard to the legality of the act.

[10] How far publick utility weighed with me when I took charge of the office may be difficult of positive proof, as the chief evidence of it must rest in my own breast, I will not therefore offer my own averments and assurances on that subject, as I cannot expect them to meet with the general credit which I am conscious they deserve. I shall likewise, for similar reasons, decline to say anything myself of the utility of the office choosing to leave it to the attestations of others less biassed, and to the known effects of the appointment; for whether my having regulated the office and discharged the duties of it have or have not been attended with labor to myself and good to the country your Honourable Board have now full experience to determine; and to your candor I refer it for an impartial representation at home.

[11] If by compromise with the Governor General is meant any agreement, express or implied, of any kind whatsoever that I should at all relax in any matter which had or was likely to be contested between the Governor General or Council and the Supreme Court, which is the only sense I can put on the word, I do most positively and solemnly deny the charge, and beg leave to refer to the recollection of the Governor General whether I did not in the course of conversations, when he talked of the expedience of the office being placed in my hands, explain to him that it was not to be expected that my holding the office should in the least vary my conduct with regard to the differences of opinion entertained by the Governor General and Council and the Court, and whether he did not declare that no such thing was expected, and expressed some dissatisfaction that I had thought it necessary to use a caution of that nature. And to the judges I appeal whether, in every case wherein such differences of opinion were involved, I have not since the appointment persisted in the same uniform language and conduct which I held before the appointment. I had indeed both before and after the appointment, as soon as the subjects of the differences had been referred to England, as far as I could consistent with what I thought the duties of my office of Chief Justice, to the utmost of my power endeavoured to prevent all questions which might either revive the old or furnish new matter of contention between the Governor General and Council and the Court from coming to a public decision, that everything might remain in quiet and with as little ferment as possible till a remedy from home should be applied to the evil. But as this was the rule of my conduct as well before as since the appointment this I can hardly think is intended to be referred to by the pretended compromise.

[12] It would ill become me, after the trust and confidence with which you have honored me, on account of any obloquy or personal attack which it may have submitted me to, by abandoning the office before you have taken order about it to replunge the administration of justice into that confusion from which, I flatter myself, I have in some small degree been the means of rescuing it. I have therefore to this time carried on the civil business of the office, which I think I might lawfully do, as the new Act of Parliament which confirms the Court authorizes it to be held by the Governor General and Council, or some committee thereof

or appointed thereby. But as it is now, by that Act, erected into a Court of Record, and an appeal is given from it to His Majesty and it is made a Court of Criminal Jurisdiction for the purpose of hearing, trying, determining and punishing offences committed in the collection of the revenues, I must submit to your Honourable Board whether it is not become necessary to take into consideration by whom and in what manner that justice, which is now of a criminal as well as civil nature, should be administered, and this leads me to remind you more particularly that the rules and regulations, already formed by you, relate only to civil suits, and that there are none which will apply to the new criminal jurisdiction now given to the Court.

[13] I have before mentioned that I have hitherto carried on the business of the court in the usual manner, but as some time has now elapsed since the arrival of the new Act of Parliament I thought it my duty to inform you of what relates to myself, as it is connected as well with your public acts as my own, and to remind you of the necessity of making provisions with regard to the court.

[14] I shall for the same reasons, which have prevailed on me to the present time, still continue to go on with the civil department of the court, but must decline hearing, trying and determining on any complaints of a criminal nature, should any such be preferred to the court, both because there are no rules laid down for proceedings in such cases and because I do not know it was your intention that I should, the holding such jurisdiction being totally different, in its nature and consequences, from that which you have commissioned me to execute.

[15] I must request that the consideration of these matters may be brought before your Honourable Board on as early a day as your proceedings will, with convenience, admit.

Calcutta,  
8th August 1782.

I have the honor to be,  
Honourable Sir and Sirs,  
Your very obedient humble servant,  
E. Impey.

I have been obliged to [delay] the sending in this letter as Mr. Bayne desired to consult his papers, at Baugnan, before he swore to his affidavit.

*ENCLOSURE 3*

Select Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors of the  
East India Company.

Calcutta 3rd April 1779

Gentlemen,

[1] In reviewing the proceedings of the Governor General and Council in their Revenue Department there is one subject which, I conceive, deserves the particular attention of the Court of Directors. I take

this method of recommending it through you to their immediate consideration, for reasons which undoubtedly will recur to you as soon as you are possessed of the particular circumstances that belong to it.

[2] On the 10th of October 1777 a majority of the Board thought fit to give a contract for keeping the pools at Moorshedabad in repair for two years to a Mr. Wattel for the sum of 1,64,800 *sicca* rupees. Of this person I can give you no other information than that he is not in the Company's service, his connections and situations in this country are equally unknown to me, but I feel no hesitation in assuring you that the contract is too profitable to be given to him for his sole benefit.

[3] On the 13th of February 1778 the majority thought fit to give a contract for repairing the pools of the district of Burdwan to a Mr. Fraser for two years for the sum of 1,80,000 *sicca* rupees. Whereas in the settlement of that district, formed by Sir John Clavering, Colonel Monson and myself for the years 1776 and 1777, the Rajah's officers had engaged, and were bound to perform the same service for the sum of 25,000 *sicca* rupees per annum. Mr. Fraser is an under officer in the Supreme Court of Judicature, where I understand he is well provided for. You are to consider and judge of the views and principles which have guided the Governor General and Council in the allotment of such a business, on terms of such immoderate profit, to a person so circumstanced as you will find Mr. Fraser to be. If you think fit to enquire into his situations and connections, by referring to the consultations, you will find that I have gone as far in opposing the measure as the delicate and personal nature of the question, and perhaps my own safety, would admit of. Let me only assure you that it concerns the Company's service in a very high degree.

[4] Some late resolutions, still more extraordinary and questionable than even those taken in the first instance, have brought these contracts again into view. On the 29th of December and 2nd of February last, it was determined to give Mr. Wattel and Mr. Fraser a grant of a continuation of their present contracts respectively for three years each, to commence from the expiration of such contracts, that is, to commence at a time, when by law the present Government will have ceased to exist. I am informed that grants so circumstanced are in themselves illegal and void, and as such Mr. Wheler and I have opposed them. The whole

Revenue Consultations 16th, 19th February 1779.

sum payable to Mr. Fraser, out of the Company's treasury, is *sicca* rupees 4,20,000, which, reckoning the current rupee at two shillings, is equal to £48,720.

Besides this you will observe that in the second grant Mr. Fraser is authorized to execute certain additional works which properly belong to his contract, and to deliver in extra bills for the same upon honour. What such extra charge may amount to or whether his whole real expence will not be covered by this supplemental condition can only be matter of conjecture. The objection to the new clause, on the face of it, is that it leaves the Company open to an unlimited charge.



The whole disbursement on account of Mr. Wattel's contract will be *sicca* rupees 4,12,000; £47,792.

[5] It is for the Company to consider whether they will allow their servants to bind them in this manner for any term of years *ad libitum*, and to give away their property with such unbounded profusion. It is not possible, I think, that the purposes to be answered by so manifest a sacrifice of the Company's interest to that of individuals can be mistaken. In the case of Mr. Fraser the object meant to be provided for is sufficiently apparent, and very well understood in this place. The continuation of Mr. Wattel's contract, I have reason to believe, is for the use of Dr. Burn and Sir John D'Oyly.

[6] If any material change shall take place in this Council, on the expiration of our present appointment, I should conceive that the new administration would think it their duty to take into immediate consideration whether the validity of the preceding grant ought not to be litigated. But I confess that, for my own part, I should enter into such a litigation with great doubt and discouragement, and without a hope of success in any degree adequate to my private opinion of the wrong which the Company suffer.

[7] The Court of Directors will weigh and determine whether it be not incumbent upon [them] to support their Government here by the best opinions taken in England, and by precise instructions and positive orders founded thereupon. Let me only observe that no time ought to be lost in sending out such orders and instructions as they may think the case requires, and that it is not likely that individuals here, however upright and irreproachable in their own conduct, will act steadily and resolutely on such invidious ground if they are not heartily supported by the direct authority and most decided approbation of their employers.

[8] The grants given to Captain Macgowan will be brought before the Company by their Board of Commerce. I shall therefore content myself with referring you\* to the several consultation in which those grants are recorded, and with assuring you that they deserve your attention not less than the contracts which are immediately the subject of this letter.

\*Public Department  
8th December 1777,  
14th December 1778,  
22nd March 1779.

I have the honor to be,  
with the greatest respect,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient and most  
humble servant,  
(Signed) P. Francis.



## ENCLOSURE 4

The affidavit of Archibald Fraser Esq., sworn before the Honourable Mr. Justice Hyde on the sixteenth day of August one thousand seven hundred and eightytwo.

Archibald Fraser of Calcutta gentleman maketh oath and says that some time in the end of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six when John Mills, gentleman, was appointed to the office of Superintendent of the Police of the town of Calcutta vacant by the death of Alexander Macraby Esq., brother-in-law, as this deponent has heard and believes, of Philip Francis Esqr., late a Counsellor of this settlement, it being rumored that the said John Mills would not long reside in Bengal, he this deponent by the mediation of Sir Elijah Impey applied to the Governor General for his interest to succeed to the office when it should become vacant, and was informed by the said Sir Elijah that the Governor had promised his interest when the vacancy should happen, and desired that this deponent would, in the mean time, employ himself in such manner as would instruct him to execute the duties of the office; that the said John Mills having in consequence, as this deponent has heard and believes, of complaints preferred against him for offences in his office by the judges of the Supreme Court been obliged to vacate his office, the said Sir Elijah told this deponent that he wishes this deponent would not urge the Governor General to keep his promise with regard to the succession to the said office, he, Sir Elijah, then declaring that he was apprehensive that if he, this deponent, succeeded to the vacancy it might cause a suspicion that he, Sir Elijah, had joined in preferring such complaints against the said John Mills not from principles of justice, but for the purpose of serving the interest of this deponent as this deponent is a son of the brother of the mother of the said Sir Elijah, and then lived in his family, and that Sir Elijah further informed this deponent that he had expressed the same sentiments to the Governor General, and that the Governor General had promised to serve this deponent in some other way. And this deponent further says that Charles Stafford Playdell Esqr. was appointed to the office in the room of the said John Mills. And this deponent verily believes if Sir Elijah Impey had not for these reasons, desired this deponent to waive the promises so made by the Governor General he, this deponent, should have succeeded to the said office. And this deponent further says that some time in the latter end of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, or the beginning of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight this deponent was informed that he had been appointed to the office of the Coroner of this town, but that he, this deponent, disliking the nature of the attendance in such office, and not being sufficiently instructed in law with the duties of the same, did beg leave to decline the acceptance of such office. That soon after, but on what particular day this deponent at this distance of time cannot say, George Bogle Esqr., now deceased, came to this deponent who was then alone in his bed chamber, and advised this deponent to make proposals to the Governor General and Council for a contract to keep the Government pools of the Burdwaun District in repair for the space of two years, and the said George Bogle then acquainted this

deponent that by the neglect of the said pools for the two preceding years an adequate sum (as the said George Bogle said) not having been allowed they were in a very ruinous condition, and that he, the said George Bogle, suggested to this deponent in what terms it would be proper to make proposals for the said contract, and did at the same time recommend that John Baynes, gentleman whom he the said George Bogle recommended as a person well skilled in such business, to be agent to this deponent for the carrying the said contract into execution. That he this deponent did on the next day, and before he acceded to the said proposition, acquaint Sir Elijah Impey with what had past between the said George Bogle and this deponent, and asked the advice of the said Sir Elijah, who answered this deponent to this effect that he knew nothing of the nature of the business or what were proper proposals to make, but that if he this deponent thought he could derive profit therefrom he, Sir Elijah, could have no objection to this deponent's engaging therein. That in consequence of the advice of the said George Bogle and assent of the said Sir Elijah he, this deponent, did make proposals to the Governor General and Council in the terms suggested by the said George Bogle without any variation whatsoever, and that in some short time after he was informed that his proposals had been accepted. And this deponent further says that he verily believes the said proposition was made to this deponent without the privity or knowledge of Sir Elijah Impey, and that the said Sir Elijah was totally ignorant of anything relative thereto, until he, this deponent, informed him thereof as is before related. And this deponent further says that he verily believes the said Sir Elijah did not at any time apply to or solicit the Governor General or any other person whatsoever on that subject before the said proposals were accepted by the Governor General and Council. And this deponent further says that, on or about the month of December one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, the said John Bayne represented to this deponent that every [very] great inundations had happened by which a greater expence was incurred by this deponent than was expected at the time of his entering into the contract, and that it would be highly beneficial to the country to prevent such inundations in future, which could not be checked by the pools which this deponent was, by his contract, bound to repair, that certain works should be erected, which said works were called, by the said John Bayne, *dobunds*, and which did not belong to the said contract, as by the said contract, bearing date on or about the sixteenth day of April one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, and by a renewed contract, bearing date the sixteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, reference being thereunto had, will fully appear, for the erecting of which said new works he this deponent was to receive no consideration whatsoever by the contract, and recommended this deponent to apply to the Governor General and Council to contract for erecting the same on a calculation, then made by the said John Bayne, of the amount of the expence likely to be incurred in the erecting thereof, and this deponent further says that the said John Bayne did propose to this deponent to [lay] out the whole of the sum to be allowed for the said works on the said works. And this deponent further says that the said John Bayne calculated the expence which would be incurred by erecting the said new

works, and this deponent did make proposals to the Governor General and Council to perform the said works according to such calculation, but the said Governor General and Council did not agree to allow to this deponent any specific sum for the expences of the said work, but did authorize this deponent to erect the said new works, and engaged to pay to this deponent such sums in advance, so that no advances should on one occasion exceed five thousand *sicca* rupees, as should be necessary for the same, he this deponent accounting for such advances if required not upon honor, as is mentioned in the said letter said to be written by the said Philip Francis Esqr., but upon oath as by the said renewed contract will fully appear. And this deponent further says that he verily believes the whole sums advanced for the said new works, and more than such sums, have been really and bona fide expended on the said new works as the said John Bayne, who has acted during the terms of the said contract as sole agent for this deponent, has frequently declared to him, this deponent, that the whole of such advances and more has been so expended. And this deponent further says that no profit, benefit or emolument whatsoever, to the best of the knowledge and belief of this deponent, by any means whatsoever, been derived from the erecting the said *dobunds* to this deponent, nor any expence saved to this deponent by the said, save and except as is expressed in the affidavit of the said John Bayne. And this deponent further says that he has to the best of his knowledge fulfilled his contracts faithfully in every particular, he having continually required his said sole agent to spare no expence whatsoever in keeping the pools, for the reparation of which he this deponent has contracted, in the best condition possible, and the said John Bayne has from time to time assured this deponent he has so done, and has at different times brought in bills and vouchers for the same to a very high amount, the whole of which accounts, respecting both the old pools and the new works, this deponent is ready and willing to subject to the inspection of the Governor General and Council, and to verify the same on oath, as far as is within the knowledge of this deponent. And this deponent further says that no part whatsoever of the sum advanced for the said new works have been applied to the use of this deponent. And this deponent further says that he did request the said Sir Elijah Impey to apply to the Governor General for his interest to procure the first contract to be renewed, and he, the said Sir Elijah, did promise this deponent that he would so do, and this deponent believes that the said Sir Elijah did apply to the Governor General on that behalf. And this deponent further saith that he has seen a paper which he has been told is a copy of a letter which he has been informed was written by Philip Francis Esqr., herein before mentioned, by which this deponent understands the said Philip Francis meant to convey insinuations prejudicial to the said Sir Elijah Impey, wherefore this deponent has thus disclosed upon oath all and every part that the said Sir Elijah has acted with regard to the said contracts, as far as it has come to the knowledge of this deponent, which he verily believes has proceeded solely from the friendship and affection which the said Sir Elijah has from his earliest childhood ever and uniformly entertained for this deponent, and more particularly as the said Sir Elijah Impey, when he was about to leave England and proceed to Bengal, requested this



deponent, then a chief mate in the service of the East India Company, to relinquish [his] pursuits in that line and trust to the [ . . . . . ] of the said Sir Elijah to provide for this [deponent] in India, which this deponent did accordingly. And this deponent further says that the said Sir Elijah has been very solicitous, as this deponent believes, to promote the interest of this deponent, that as the education of this deponent had not been such as qualified him for the higher and more lucrative offices in the Supreme Court (as the said Sir Elijah has often declared to this deponent) the said Sir Elijah procured him, this deponent, to be appointed Sealer of the said Court soon after its first institution, to which office a yearly salary of Arcot rupees two thousand and no more is annexed, and that this deponent held no other office whatsoever in the Supreme Court until the month of December in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, when he was appointed examiner in the said Court, to which office a yearly salary of Arcot rupees six thousand and no more is annexed, and that he hath not at any time held any other office in the said Court except the offices abovementioned. And this deponent further says that the profits of the said two offices, including fees and salaries after the necessary deductions for clerks and contingencies, would not if this deponent did not lodge and board gratis in the family of the said Sir Elijah be more than would be necessary to maintain him, this deponent, in decency and with common necessaries. And this deponent further saith that the said Sir Elijah Impey has not, nor has any other person on his behalf or in trust for him, received directly or indirectly any profit, reward or emolument whatsoever for or on account of the said contracts or contract or of any offices or office, appointments or appointment, profits or profit had [*sic*] made or held by this deponent, and that the said Sir Elijah Impey has not received any promise, insinuation or hint from which the said Sir Elijah Impey can derive any expectation whatsoever that he or any one for him shall in future be benefited by the same.

Sworn at Calcutta,  
The sixteenth day of August 1782  
before me.  
(Signed) J. Hyde.

(Signed) A. Fraser.

#### ENCLOSURE 5

The affidavit of John Bayne gentleman made before the Honourable Mr. Justice Hyde on the sixteenth day of August one thousand seven hundred and eighty two.

John Bayne of Bagnan, in the district of Burdwan, gentleman, maketh oath and says that he has acted as sole agent to Archibald Fraser, gentleman, for the carrying into execution a certain contract entered into with the Governor General and Council of this Presidency by the said Archibald Fraser, dated on or about the sixteenth of April in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, for repairing the Government pools of the district of Burdwan, as also a renewed contract entered into by the same parties bearing date the sixteenth day of February

one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, as well for the same purposes as for erecting certain new works, and that he has so acted from the commencement of the said contracts to the present hour, that this deponent did, on or about the month of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, proceed to the province of Burdwan for the purposes of surveying and repairing the said pools which he found in a ruinous condition, and very [verily] believes, from the appearance they made, that very small sums had been expended in repairing the same for the two preceding years, and this deponent hath hereunto annexed an office copy of a report, dated the first day of February one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, by John Kinloch Esqr., Superintendent of *Poolbundy* Repairs, which appears of the said copy [sic] to have been made in consequence of an order of the Chief and Council of Burdwan. And this deponent says that during the time the first year's repairs of the pools were carrying on as well as after the same had accordingly to the best of this deponent's judgement and abilities been completely finished the said pools sustained considerable damage occasioned by various causes, particularly by the extraordinary rains of the season and by the rapid torrents from the mountains, both of which last mentioned causes were by the *ryots* and others resident on the spot represented to this deponent to have been more severe than during the four preceding years, which representation this deponent believes to have been true. And this deponent further says that from the observations he had made on the inundations and from the probable bad consequences to cultivation, which he judged likely to ensue from the change of the course of particular parts of the rivers that were then nearly approaching the pools which were the object of the first contract, he, this deponent, did then and now does believe that certain additional works called *dobunds* were necessary for the security of the cultivation of the country, and did therefore on or about the month of December one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, advise the said Archibald Fraser to apply to the Governor General and Council to contract for the erection of the said *dobunds*. And this deponent did make a calculation, to the best of this deponent's judgement, of the expences necessary for erecting the same and did communicate the same to the said Archibald Fraser. And this deponent further says that the erecting such new works formed no part of the works to be performed under the first contract as by the said two contracts will appear. And this deponent further says that he did not include, in such calculation, any pecuniary reward for labour and trouble in superintending the erection of the same either to the said Archibald Fraser or to him, this deponent, but that the whole of the money which should be allowed for the same should be expended on the said new works. And this deponent further says that greater damages had been done to the pools by inundations after he, this deponent, had first repaired the same than the said Archibald Fraser had reason to expect, wherefore and because the said Archibald Fraser or his agents would be at great additional trouble in erecting such new works he, this deponent, did then and now thinks it was reasonable that the said first contract should be continued to the said Archibald Fraser for the space of three years beyond the first term of two years, and did therefore



advise the said Archibald Fraser to apply to the Governor General and Council for the renewal of the first mentioned contract for the term of three years as aforesaid, and this deponent further says that, as agent for the said Archibald Fraser, he has from time to time, according to the best of his skill, kept the said pools in good repair, and has not, where he has thought the same necessary, spared any expence for the due reparation of the same, and has actually expended yearly and every year large sums of money in repairing the same as by the accounts of the disbursements of this deponent will fully appear. And this deponent further says that he hath received the whole of the money which was paid for the erection of the said new works, and that not one rupee thereof had passed through the hands of the said Archibald Fraser, and that the whole of the same, down to this day, does not exceed the sum of forty thousand *sicca* rupees, and that he, this deponent, not only expended the whole of the same in the erecting of the said new works but has disbursed a sum exceeding five thousand *sicca* rupees. And this deponent further says the said sum, last mentioned, still remains due in arrear to this deponent, though by the terms of the renewed contract the said Archibald Fraser was entitled to receive the same in advance. And this deponent further saith that he will not take upon him, upon oath, to say that the erecting the said *dobunds* have not eventually saved some expence in the reparation of the old pools, but on his oath says that so far from the whole real expence to be incurred for the reparation of the old pools being covered by the renewed contract he had since erecting the same laid out large sums of money in the repairs of the said old pools, and that the whole saving of expences in repairing the said old pools during the whole period of the contract cannot amount to a larger sum than four thousand *sicca* rupees, though this deponent verily believes that such savings have not amounted to the last mentioned sum. And this deponent further says that he hath not accounted for the profits of the said contract with any other person but the said Archibald Fraser, and that the said deponent never did nor does believe that Sir Elijah Impey or any other person, for or in trust for him, or on his account, directly or indirectly is benefited by the profits of the same. And this deponent further saith that the accounts and books of the said new works have been, by him, kept separate and distinct from the accounts and books of the money he disbursed for the annual repairs of the pools, the object of the first contract, and that the said accounts and books contain a true and just account of all monies received and disbursed for and on account of the said new works, and that it will appear from the said books and accounts that no part of the forty thousand *sicca* rupees received by him, this deponent, nor of the sum which he now stands in advance has been applied for any other purpose whatever than that of erecting the said new works. That the said books have been made up by this deponent from the commencement of the said new works down to the end of the Bengal year one thousand one hundred and eighty eight, which he, this deponent, is ready and willing to lay before the Governor General and Council on oath if required, and will if so required so soon as the business of the present year one thousand one hundred and eighty nine is finished, with the utmost expedition make up the

accounts thereof, and in like manner if required lay the same on oath before the Governor General and Council.

Sworn at Calcutta,  
The sixteenth day of August 1782  
before me.  
(Signed) J. Hyde.

(Signed) John Bayne.

[ i ]

To Alexr. Higginson Esqr.,  
Chief and Provincial Council of Revenue,  
Burdwan.

Gentlemen,

[1] In obedience to your orders of 15th November last, I proceeded to make a circuit of the *bunds* of this province, and being now returned I beg leave to address you on the subject of my enquiry. Your instructions particularly pointed out to me to visit and inspect the *bunds* in general, and especially those which had suffered during the last rainy season, to form an estimate of the expence which might be required for the ensuing repairs, and to ascertain the amount which has been disbursed during the last season; these duties I have endeavoured to fulfil as far as the time and circumstances would admit and shall now take the liberty to offer to you my observations upon the several points of your instructions. When I left Burdwan I proceeded to those *purgunnahs* which are situated upon the Damooder, viz., Havilliah, Beligur, Boorsoot and Billiah. The *bunds* of those *purgunnahs* I inspected throughout, and found they had been so totally neglected for the two last seasons that they were nearly on a level with the lands, and at those places where the current of the river particularly set there were many and large breaches, by which considerable tracts of the adjoining lands had been totally inundated, and appeared waste and uncultivated. The *purgunnahs* of Billiah being of a very low situation have suffered more considerably than some others, and, except the large *bunds* of Boilah and Ampdah, there is not the appearance of any others for a tract of ten coss, in which space the *ryotts* themselves had used the only endeavours for the preservation of the lands, which being very inadequate to the work they suffered very much from the casualties of the season. The above large *bunds* extend also to nearly ten coss each and are (from breaches formed by the force of the river) a very small protection to the lands, in so much that the *purgunnah* may now be deemed totally defenceless. These four *purgunnahs*, from the course of the Damooder being winding and forming itself into strong eddies, are particularly to be attended to in the repairs.

[2] I next proceeded to Mundulgaut and those *purgunnahs* which are situated upon the Roopnarain, Selai and Cossai rivers. The *bunds* of Mundulgaut being the largest and greatest extent of any in the province, and the repair of it being so materially and immediately necessary

for the preservation of the crops I was particularly attentive to its condition. The large *bund* extends about nine *coss* upon these different rivers and is the chief protection from their inundations; within this capital *bund* there are many lesser ones against the *nullahs* and small water courses which branch from these rivers; in both the breaches are numerous but particularly in the large one, by which many extensive and valuable tracts of land have been totally ruined and their crops destroyed during the last rains. The *ryotts*, as the only means of preserving their property, exerted themselves very much in filling up the breaches as they were made, but their labour was so insufficient that at present the condition of the *bund* is very little improved by them. The state which I have thus exhibited of the principal and most extensive *bunds* I can apply in a proportionable degree to the whole, they being universally in such decay that the most speedy and substantial repair becomes absolutely necessary for the preservation of the revenue of a large and the most valuable part of the province. The great expence which will now be incurred in this work must be attributed solely to neglect and inattention of the Rajah's officers for the two last years, because on that account the work now to be done becomes double to what it possibly could have been, had the annual repairs been properly and regularly applied. Although the estimate of repairs, which accompanies this address, amounts to the sum of *sicca* rupees 1,19,405-13-0 yet I conceive it not to be more than is absolutely necessary to put the *bunds* once in a solid and substantial condition; this being once effected the annual expence of *poolbundy* will be greatly decreased and the province perfectly defended from such inundations which have brought ruin on such numbers of the inhabitants and have proved of such detriment to the public revenue. The estimate which I have formed was collected in the course of my circuit from the *munduls* and *conoys* (or head labourers) of the several villages; they have been constantly employed in the business of the repairs and have a very competent and sufficient knowledge of the work. The particular estimates as formed by them are too voluminous to be now translated, but for the information of the Board I enclose a translation of the estimate for the *purgunnah* Chuttuah which is similar to all the others and formed upon the same principles. In endeavouring to comply with your instructions, for obtaining a knowledge of the expence incurred in the repairs of last season, I called upon the several *durogahs* who had been employed in that business, but found that they had all quitted the districts upon my going out and had carried with them every paper and person that could have given me any information. The general intelligence I got from the inhabitants was that the *durogahs* were carried at that time to Burdwan by the Rajah's officers for the purpose of explaining their accounts, and it appears to me to have been with a view of frustrating every attempt of mine to acquire the knowledge I was instructed to do. The information I was able to obtain from the *ryotts* and some *gomastahs* (who had been employed by the *durogahs*) together with my own observation proves that a very trifling part of the sum was applied to the repairs and that the greatest part has been embezzled. I beg leave to lay before you a translation of some petitions presented to me by the *ryotts* in the *purgunnah* Boorsut, and it was confirmed to me such methods were used in every

*purgunah*, the circumstances of which they are ready to prove if you shall think proper to call upon them.

[3] I also beg leave to acquaint you that notwithstanding I was furnished with *purwannahs* to the *tanadars* of the districts to attend me, and render me every assistance in my progress yet it was with some difficulty I could get them to attend, and a few of those who did it was with reluctance on their part that they afforded me assistance.

[4] I beg leave to observe to you gentlemen that there is time sufficient before the ensuing rains to put the pools in proper repair, and whoever is intrusted with the work cannot plead want of time as an excuse for any neglect.

Burdwan,  
1st February 1778.  
A true copy.  
(Signed) W. Farguharson,  
Acting Secretary.  
A true copy.  
(Signed) W. Webber,  
Secretary,

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
With respect,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Signed) John Kinlock.  
Superintendent *Poolbundy* Repairs.

Revenue Department.

[ ii ]

Estimate of the advances absolutely necessary to be expended this season for putting the *bunds* of this province in a thorough repair.

						Rs.	as.	p.
Guallaboom	...	...	...	...	...	1,033	8	0
Champanogony	...	...	...	...	...	214	8	0
Baggah	...	...	...	...	...	324	6	0
Havillah	...	...	...	...	...	2,109	0	0
Biligur	...	...	...	...	...	4,313	7	0
Boorsutt new pools	...	...	...	...	...	14,095	0	0
Billiah Ditto	...	...	...	...	...	24,531	0	0
Mundlegaut Ditto	...	...	...	...	...	37,305	0	0
Chuttuah	...	...	...	...	...	11,103	0	0
Burdah new pools	...	...	...	...	...	7,408	0	0
Chanderconah	...	...	...	...	...	1,976	0	0
Jahanabad	...	...	...	...	...	1,920	0	0
Byrah	...	...	...	...	...	3,400	0	0
Chomuah	...	...	...	...	...	4,102	0	0
Hary Paul	...	...	...	...	...	73	0	0
Arsah	...	...	...	...	...	503	0	0
Monurshy	...	...	...	...	...	634	0	0

(Continued)



					Rs.	as.	p.
Ranihattee	...	...	...	...	161	0	0
Turruff Guttaul	...	...	...	...	4,200	0	0
Total <i>sicca</i> rupees					1,19,405	13	0

Burdwan,  
1st February 1778.

A true copy.  
(Signed) W. Farguharson,  
Acting Secretary.

A true copy.  
(Signed) W. Webber,  
Secretary,  
Revenue Department.

(Signed) John Kinlock,  
Superintendent *Poolbundy* Repairs.

## 7

## LETTER DATED 3 FEBRUARY 1783

*French fleet in the Bay—Captain Fiott's case—Mr. Ritchie to make a survey of the eastern channel of the Hooghly—Colonel Pearse's safe conveyance of the treasure to Madras—horses sent to Madras for Sir John Burgoyne's regiment—General Stuart's claim to a permanent seat in the Select Committee at Fort St. George—friendly relations with Tibet to be renewed.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

3rd February 1783.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Having resolved to return the *Fox* packet to you we now transmit our proceedings by her from the last year, agreeable to the list of packet.

2. We had the honor to address you by the *Lively* on the 7th December, a duplicate and triplicate of our letter were forwarded by the *Rochford* and *Tarter* which sailed in company with the *Deptford* and *Lord Mulgrave*, and left their pilots on the 26th of December.

3. The ship *Resolution* (which having been repaired was taken into the service on the 16th December) and the *Hinchinbrooke*, *Worcester* and



*Norfolk* are now loaded and would have been dispatched to you about this time had not the late appearance of the French fleet off Ganjam and the uncertainty of their present situation deterred us from sending them out until we receive further intelligence of the enemy's motions or designs.

4. Letters which we have received from Ganjam mention with pretty strong evidence, though not from undoubted authority, that the *Blandford*, Captain Pigou, in her way to this place had fallen into the hand of the enemy.

5. The *Hawke*, Captain Scott, was chased by a 50 gun ship and a frigate into these roads. To avoid them as she drew little water, she passed over the sand heads and entered the Subtermooky river, where the enemy not being able to follow have left her. We enclose a copy of Captain Scott's letter containing the particulars of this transaction.

6. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the following ships are safely arrived here from Madras and now in the river, viz.,

<i>Major</i>	<i>Kent</i>	
<i>Ganges</i>	<i>Warren Hastings</i>	
<i>Dutton</i>	<i>Chesterfield</i>	
<i>Calcutta</i>	<i>Nottingham</i>	} Transports
<i>Alfred</i>	<i>Ann and Amelia</i>	
<i>Latham</i>		

7. Captain Poynting who commands the *Resolution* having, as he informed us, being obliged to throw four of his guns overboard in the gale of wind which obliged him to put back in May 1782, we have furnished him with four other guns, 12 pounders from our stores, an account of which will be transmitted to you from the Ordnance Department.

8. Agreeable to your order and the terms of charterparty we have directed the Marine Paymaster to advance £200 per month for each of your chartered ships to the commander who had applied for that assistance.

9. Captain Cook has applied to us for payment of his bill for necessities supplied to your recruits on board the *Worcester* at Rio de Janero, amounting to rupees 450. Although the claim was small and we were satisfied with the propriety of it we could not discharge it consistently with your directions for referring such applications to you; we therefore desired him to present his bill to you on his arrival in England.

10. We likewise beg leave to refer to your determination a petition which we have received from Captain Cook to be excused from paying the Hon'ble Company's duties upon the [...] imported by him, which in consequence of your particular intention of indulgence to the commanders of your ships and the

little room left for other articles of greater bulk after accommodating on board the *Worcester* the troops with their baggage and military stores, he invested on his own account and has been obliged to dispose of to a great and an unexpected disadvantage.

11. A singular and very impudent prosecution had been commenced in the Supreme Court against Captain Fiott, previous to his departure, by Robert Moreen, late steward of his ship the *Tarter*, who had deserted his employment, for payment of the value of his chest which remained on board. Captain Fiott having been arrested on this demand and compelled to give bail entreated us to clear his bail and relieve him from the suit, that he might not be detained in India.

14th January. We privately desired him to find out the man whom we intended to have taken up and sent on board of ship as the properest way of punishing his presumption and of stopping the prosecution, but Captain Fiott failing in his searches and having since left the settlement we ordered the Company's Attorney to release his bail and defend the suit.

12. The sudden departure of the Admiral from Madras prevented his receiving our letter at that place, or benefitting by the services of Mr. Ritchie your Marine Surveyor who was the bearer of it in bringing the fleet to this place; and Mr. Ritchie being returned

6th January. we have ordered him to make a complete and accurate survey of the eastern channel of the river, instead of that which was to have been made by the engineers, [and] shall hereafter transmit you a copy of it.

13. We have found it necessary, both from the instance of demerit and for the sake of example, to dismiss Mr. Dean, a pilot in the Company's service, and to declare him incapable of further employment, for refusing to take charge of a ship at a moderate draft of

14th January. water to conduct her out of the river through the new channel without being lightened, although he has been upon the survey with the Master Attendent and was or ought to have been sufficiently acquainted with it to perform this service at an equal draft of water with others; the vessel was afterwards piloted out by his junior and without decreasing her draft of water.

14. In compliance with the wish of the President and Council at Fort Marlborough to be furnished with a proper vessel for carrying dispatches, we have ordered the *Trial* packet to be delivered over [to] them for that purpose.

15. Besides the articles indented for and supplied to the Presidency of Fort Marlborough we have issued to Mr. Marsdon, a member of their Council, who is now here, (for the currency of that place) 50,000 current rupees in a silver coin, of which he furnished the sample, and 10,000 current rupees in copper coin.

8th January.

16. We have the pleasure to inform you that Colonel Pearse, who returned by land to his duty with the army in the Carnatic in August last, having offered to convey 20,000 gold mohurs, with his baggage, for the service of the Presidency of Fort St. George, this sum was accordingly delivered to his charge. The necessity for keeping secret a trust, which in every mile of the way might be exposed to plunder if it were known, made us withhold the entry of it upon our records and prevented our taking any earlier notice of it to you. We wrote however a secret and confidential letter to import [report] it to the Right Honourable the President at Fort St. George, and before the arrival of Colonel Pearse we were astonished to see the transaction mentioned as a circumstance of notoriety in a letter from General Stuart to the Commander in Chief. We have nevertheless the satisfaction to add that Colonel Pearse arrived and delivered his charge safely into the Companies [Company's] treasury at Madras, acquiring in our opinion some degree of credit, both from the proposal itself which was made at a time when the season would not admit of a safe and speedy conveyance by sea and from his successful execution of it.

Consultation 23rd  
December.

17. Having desired the Commander in Chief to select as many of the horses of the first and second regiment of cavalry, now incorporated into one regiment and arrived from Mongheer, as may be fit for service and necessary to be sent to Madras for the purpose of mounting Sir John Burgoyne's corps of light dragoons, and having met with insuperable difficulties in our endeavours to send them by sea, we have directed them to be marched over land, under the charge of an officer who is ordered to proceed without delay.

2nd January.

18. We have ordered 400 *lascars* to be draughted from the artillery corps to complete the strength of the companies serving in the Carnatic, and shall send them thither by the earliest conveyances.

10th January.

19. We have received a reference from Major General Stuart<sup>1</sup>, appealing to our judgement, for a decision of his right to possess a seat on all occasions at the Select Committee at Fort St. George in virtue of his succession to the chief command of the forces on that establishment upon the resignation of General Sir H. Munro. The President and Select Committee, in compliance with the request of General Stuart, had transmitted to us a copy of their proceedings on this subject but without any reference on their part, and as the question itself related to internal arrangement in which we had no right to interfere we thought it proper to decline giving any direct opinion upon it, and a resolution was minuted accordingly.

20. The Commander in Chief having afterwards expressed a wish, for his own satisfaction and guidance as he was resolved to return thither, to be made acquainted with our sentiments, we entered into a full examination of General Stuart's pretensions, and gave our opinion at large, of which Sir Eyre Coote has been furnished with a copy, and we note it in the margin for your information.

13th January.

21. Mr. John Holland our late minister at Hyderabad has applied to us for a passage on the *Hinchinbrooke*, the decline of his health compelling him to return to England; although we have had frequent occasions to mention our sense of the services of this gentleman we deem it more particularly incumbent upon us, in this close of them, to offer our last testimony of the ability and integrity which he has displayed in the course of his late residence. We ascribe it to him that our conciliatory conduct with the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn has been productive of the effects of drawing him from every powerful confederacy of which he was the chief, and of which he had been the author, and of converting his sentiments from a determined enmity to a disposition of friendship, which we are persuaded might be improved into a firm and permanent connection if our endeavours to this effect were equally seconded by the Government of Fort St. George.

22. And here we may be permitted to express our regret at their want of the advantages which you had provided for the counsels of the Select Committee of that Presidency by your appointment of Mr. Holland to be a member of it.

23. Could its measures have been regulated by a temper, understanding and experience equal to his, we might have been spared from the painful necessity to which we have been so frequently reduced of interposing our authority and our advice, which has been interpreted as authority in the affairs which especially belong to them but which in their effects might prove of consequence to your general and most essential interests.

24. The Governor General conceiving it might be of public utility at this time to renew and confirm the intercourse which had been established between the Government and the Lama of  
9th January. Thibet<sup>2</sup> proposed the deputation of Lieutenant Samuel Turner, a person whom he recommended as well qualified to cultivate a good understanding with the Lama, and possibly to open a communication and intercourse with the northern provinces as far as China. We have accordingly appointed Lieutenant Turner to proceed on this deputation.

25. In consequence of the recommendation of the provincial Commander in Chief we have thought it expedient to abolish the Cadet  
2nd January. Company, and to desire that he would distribute the cadets who were arrived to the different brigades where they might have friends to assist them and lessen the weight of their expences in the first out set, which would prevent those shifts and meanesses which the habits of distress and example are too apt to inculcate.

26. Mr. Stephen Sullivan having resigned the office of Judge Advocate General Mr. Thomas Martin has, in conformity to your orders, succeeded him. He has likewise received a warrant  
8th January. from the Commander in Chief to act in this capacity here, which authority was necessary because the Act for punishing mutiny



and desertion ordains, "that when and so long as any of His Majesty's forces shall be employed to act in defence of any of the Company's settlements or to assist against their enemies in the East India, the power of appointing courts martial or authorizing such appointments shall be in the Commander in Chief of such of His Majesty's forces, for the time being, over such of the said Company's officers and soldiers as shall belong to the principal settlement where or from whence such forces shall be employed."

27. We enclose and beg leave to recommend to your attentive consideration copy of a letter which we have received from the Accountant General Mr. Larkins, stating the difficulty which he 20th January. experiences in keeping up the business of his office, and the impossibility for himself and his deputy or for any two persons without the assistance of other European clerks, well versed in accounts, to produce such statements of your affairs as you ought to receive from the Presidency, and proposing it to you to appoint two capable and well qualified persons to fill the second and third stations in the office, with suitable salaries to confine their views entirely to it.

28. It is a circumstance of public notoriety that the assiduous and unremitted attention which Mr. Larkins has paid to the laborious duties of this office, which within these few years have greatly encreased from the general improved and comprehensive mode established by him of arranging and keeping the accounts of this Presidency, has destroyed his health; and this must necessarily restrain him in future from devoting so much of his time to the same occupations as it could not be done without danger of his life.

29. For these and other reasons, which are fully set forth in his letter, we consider the object of great importance, and as we approve of his proposition we are induced to send a copy of his letter, separate from our proceedings, and particularly to solicit your attention to the requests contained in the 12th and 14th paragraphs, and the circumstances adverted to in the 15th and 16th paragraphs as the only effectual means of enabling him to render his office of real utility to the Company.

30. In the mean time we have authorized the Accountant General to engage the assistance of an able European accountant, at such a salary and upon such terms as shall be necessary for that purpose, and resolved that the junior covenanted servants who shall be employed in the Accountant's office shall be allowed the same salaries as are paid to those in the Secretary's office.

31. The augmentation of the military establishment for the supply of the detachments sent from hence to Fort St. George and Bombay, and the necessity of filling up the several vacancies which have happened from casualties in the line of surgeons obliged us from time to time to receive into the service several persons who after having been recommended



by the Surgeon General were, upon further examination, found to be well qualified for the duty of assistant surgeons, but to prevent their taking rank of those whom you might send out from England, we have established the same rule respecting them which is now in force with regard to the rank of cadets, that is that the appointments made by you shall hence forward take [...] of all appointments in the country in the same year.

32. In this place we think it proper to add that unless the urgency of the service shall be such as to render it absolutely necessary and insure to us, beyond a doubt, your future approbation of it we have determined not to make any more appointments of cadets.

33. The following of your covenanted servants have resigned in order to return to Europe for the purposes mentioned in their letters, which are noted in the margin:

9th December.	Mr. Mathew Dawson.
Do.	Mr. George Livius.
Do.	Also Mr. William Campbell late a surgeon in your service.

34. The following officers in your military service on this establishment have likewise resigned and embarked for England.

6th January.	Major Thomas Adderly	} For the recovery of their health, the necessity of which appears in the certificates noted in the margin.
Do.	Captain Richard Long	

9th December.	Captain Thomas Burges.
23rd December.	Major James Law.

35. Major Law is under the necessity of repairing to England, at this time, to adjust some family affairs which require his presence, and wishing to return to the service as soon as possible he has solicited our interposition with you to prevent any loss of rank. We think it necessary therefore to give our testimony in his favor by declaring our good opinion of him as an active deserving officer, and on this ground we beg leave to second his application for permission to return with his rank if he returns within a reasonable time.

36. An application having been made to us for the discharge of George Burnet, a recruit lately arrived from England, who had a few years ago been an officer of artillery upon the establishment and dismissed by the sentence of a court martial for drunkenness, we released him from his contract as a soldier, judging it highly improper to retain him in the army under such circumstances. But we think it necessary to mention the fact for your information, and to guard you in future against the impositions of disqualified persons who may attempt to avail themselves of fraudulent means to obtain from you the bounty given to recruits and consequently a free

passage to India; added to these considerations the man is paralytic and in every respect unfit for military duty.

37. The President and Council of Fort St. George having transmitted to us a comparative calculation, which they had formed, of the supplies of rice received from the Agent here, with the rates of a contract entered into by them with Captain Mercer we thought it just to submit the same to the Agent for his remarks upon it. Having received a letter from him upon this subject we shall transmit a copy of it to the President and Council of Fort St. George, and we beg leave to send a copy for your observation, which makes a number in the packet.

38. Lieutenant Robert Morris being, as appears by the Surgeon General's certificate, in that state of health which makes a voyage to Europe absolutely necessary for his recovery we have permitted him to resign and take his passage on the *Fox*. If he should apply to you to be reinstated with his rank, in any reasonable time, we beg leave to recommend a compliance with his request.

39. Having received a memorial from Mr. John Stormonth a surgeon in your service we transmit a copy of it number in the packet, and request that you will be pleased to signify to us your determination on his case in consequence of our former references to you under date the 4th May 1777.

Fort William,  
3rd February 1783.

We have the honor to be etc.

## 8

### LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1783

*Treaty with the Marathas ratified—survey of the eastern channel of the Hooghly completed—English ships chased by the French fleet in the Bay—measures to check desertions of sailors from ships—complaint of the Government of Macao against Captain McClary—Chief of Rhio's connivance with the Dutch in the capture of the Betsy—provision of a suitable maintenance for Raghunath Rao—Mr. Bolts' case—arrangements for the proper accommodation of the King's regiments—emergency appointment of cadets in India discontinued—estates of Captain Summers and Lord Clive—contract with Prinsep for copper coinage cancelled—frauds of Paymasters—dispute regarding purchase of Prinsep's buildings at Falta to be settled by arbitration—brevet commissions for officers with distinguished services—regulations for the proper treatment of Indian servants and sailors taken abroad—Sullivan's appointment as Resident at Walajah's court annulled—advantages of the Calcutta-Chunar road—Sir Eyre Coote's*

*departure for Madras—Lakshmipur factory washed away by the river—the sannyasi menace—proposal for a fund for orphan relief—garrison of Buxar fort increased—sanction for the erection of a new jail in Calcutta.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

5th April 1783.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We take the occasion offered to us by the dispatch of the *Surprize*, a vessel taken up for the purpose of conveying to you early intelligence of the final ratification and interchange of the Marratta treaty, to address you fully from this Department.

2. Our last letter was written by the *Fox* packet on the 3rd February, and according to your late injunctions has been forwarded to you in duplicate by each of the four following ships, which have been laden here and dispatched within these four days with cargoes as expressed opposite to their respective names.

<i>Resolution</i>	...	...	Invoice	Current rupees	16,34,740
<i>Worcester</i>	...	...	do.	do.	15,45,700
<i>Norfolk</i>	...	...	do.	do.	15,69,000
<i>Hinchinbroke</i>	...	...	do.	do.	13,56,400

The *Norfolk* has met with an accident to her rudder, which we fear may be the cause of further delay, and indeed neither of them are immediately able to sail for want of men.

3. The following of your ships are now in the river, where they as well as the above have been detained a long time by the apprehension of the French fleet in the Bay, but latterly by the want of seamen, which cause prevents these also from sailing; however we hope that in a few days more they will all be able to depart according to their several destinations, viz.,

For Madras and China: *Calcutta, Dutton, Latham, Kent.*

For Madras and back: *Major, Chesterfield.*

For Bombay and China: *Ganges, Alfred, Hawke.*

For Bombay and back: *Warren Hastings.*

To be laden here: *Southampton.*

4. You will observe that in the original disposition of the ships we had allotted the *Dutton* to be immediately laden for Europe but on a representation from Captain West, that she was not in a condition to perform a direct voyage, at this season, without repairs which could not be executed in time. we agreed to alter it for Madras and China.

Consultation  
13th February.

5. Captain Cook and the other captains of Indiamen, now here, have presented to us [a] claim for slops, wine and other articles supplied for the use of the King's troops, and of your recruits on board of ship and at Rhio de Janiero, but we have referred them severally to you for the allowance of their demands.

6. The deficient deliveries of your consignments to us by the *Nottingham* and *Ann & Amelia* remain to be settled in England, the commanders of those ships having desired to refer the accounts to be demanded from the owners; we therefore enclose these numbers in the packet.

7. A complaint having been preferred to the President and Council at Fort St. George by Major Varennius, of the Hanoverian Regiment, against Captain Popham of the ship *Ann & Amelia* for his treatment of the officers and men of that regiment in the passage out, a copy of which was transmitted to us for our investigation of it, we called upon Captain Popham to answer to the charges it contained; his reply was long delayed and at length contained little more than general denials of the facts asserted, but was conceived in a style which rather marked the character given of him by the Major than tended to his own justification. We have forwarded a copy of it to Fort St. George, whither Captain Popham is going, and have thought it proper to resolve that until he shall have cleared himself of these accusations we will not employ him in any manner in the Company's service, a precaution which we have also recommended to the Presidency of Fort St. George.

Consultation  
14th January.

7th March.

8. The survey of the eastern channel into the entrance of this river having been completed and the buoys laid down we take this opportunity of forwarding a copy of it to you with Mr. Ritchie's letter of explanation. We intend to clear the jungle from Cock's Island, as soon as may be, for the conveniency of the shipping, and have ordered Mr. Ritchie to prepare a form of instructions to the pilots for the navigation of this channel, a copy of which is likewise enclosed.

15th March.

9. In the beginning of February last the *San Carlos* man of war and the *Hastings* a large country ship were chased over the sand heads, and ran into shallow water at the entrance of the Sunderbunds. The enemy's ships consisted of the English [?] *Hannibal* and the *Bellone*. After quitting the *Hastings* they pursued the *San Carlos* to a place near the mouth of the Hurringotta river where Captain Murray who commanded her, finding himself unable to cope with a force so much superior to him, was



determined to run his ship on shore rather than suffer her to be taken by the enemy, and having thrown overboard a great quantity of his provisions and guns he anchored in 13 feet water. The French ships not being able to follow him into such shallow water kept cruizing about for a few days and then left him. He afterwards made his passage good to Vizagapatam from whence he came here, and is lately sailed in company with Sir Eyre Coote who is on board the *Resolution*.

10. We have replaced the guns and stores lost by the *San Carlos*, and considering the great want of seamen in the fleet, a proper supply of whom sent in time to meet and man the different ships might possibly decide the fate of India, we have exerted ourselves by means of a press and by requiring an equal contribution from the Indiamen of Sir Richard Bickerton's fleet<sup>1</sup>, who had not before furnished any men to the Admiral to supply his wants; and notwithstanding we have most effectually assisted the *San Carlos* we have met with many obstacles in our endeavours and various have been the complaints from the commanders of your ships, but it has ever been usual for ships of war to press of their own accord from other vessels, and indeed the opposition from the commanders in the present instance may have encouraged the officers of the *San Carlos* to press men immediately on board their ships without the assistance or authority of Government, which has tended to distress them, for it has caused a general desertion.

11. Some complaints have also been made to us by the captains of the Indiamen against individuals for enticing away their seamen and particularly against Colonel Watson whom we thought it necessary to call upon to reply to the charge, which he accordingly did in a letter which stands recorded as per margin.

Consultation  
24th March.

12. The great and continual desertions from the ships and the difficulty of recovering the men, after they had once escaped, are reasons which have induced us to use a more effectual method of apprehending them than any before adopted. We have therefore ordered the Committee of Revenue to cause all Europeans residing without licence or authority and contrary to law in any of the districts within the provinces to be taken up and delivered over to the Superintendent of the Police in Calcutta.

11th March.

13. A complaint was long since preferred to us from Canton, of which you have been already advised, against Captain Maclary for the seizure of two ships, being Portuguese property, near the Streights of Banca. We could not take any steps in this matter till lately for want of proper persons and witnesses to prosecute the claim, but the owners of the ships having come from Macao we conceived it proper and necessary to grant them the assistance of the Company's law officers in the prosecution of their rights. One of them has obtained a decree of the Court for *sicca* rupees 1,10,000, being the value of his ship, and has now commenced an action for damages in

27th February.



the value of her cargo and the loss of her voyage. The owners of the other ship the *St. Anthonio* have agreed to the settlement of their claims by arbitration.

14. In reply to a representation which we have received from the Government of Macao upon these subjects, we have  
 24th February. informed them of the ready disposition which we possessed to grant all the support and assistance in our power to the complaint when they had provided the necessary evidence for carrying on a prosecution; but if they thought it proper to prefer  
 10th March. a criminal indictment against Captain Maclary we must refer them to the Court of Admiralty at Fort St. George, for want of competent admiralty jurisdiction here. In any injury which they might conceive the Portuguese flag has sustained and for which they demanded redress we were obliged to refer them to a higher authority in Europe.

15. Captain Thornhill who proceeded from hence into the Streights of Malacca to assist in completing the sale of the opium, which has been laden on the *Betsey*, and to superintend the remittance of its produce to  
 3rd March. China, being now returned, has delivered us a letter addressed to him by Captain Geddes, who commanded the *Betsey*, giving a full account of her capture in the river of Rhio, which appears to have been contrived and executed by the connivance of the Chief of that place, who had been bribed by the enemy for his forbearance while their ships entered the river and were allowed to take possession of her.

16. A calamity like this cannot fail in its first impression of suggesting a strong suspicion of misconduct from the relation of Captain Geddes, which we have every reason to believe to be strictly true. We must, in justice, acquit both him and Captain Thornhill of blame for this unfortunate event, although it may leave stronger imputations on the original undertaking from which had it succeeded we should have derived much credit. It has failed from causes which can produce no impeachment of our discretion in the ground on which it was constructed, and in effect we had no other resource; upon this subject we shall speak more at large hereafter.

17. The certificates which were granted by us upon the cargo having been rendered null by the loss of it we have granted fresh certificates to the holders of such as preferred receiving bills on you at China to the repayment of their loans here; and these certificates will entitle them to bills upon the arrival of the pepper, which we had desired the Presidency of Fort Marlborough to consign to Canton, or upon the first fund received from us which shall be realized to that amount.

18. It appears that Captain Geddes paid into the treasury at Canton the sum of pillar dollars 59,600 on account of the opium which he had sold, previous to the capture of the *Betsey*.

19. Having read and attentively considered your several commands by the *Worcester* and *Greyhound*, in repeated meetings which we have held for that express purpose, we shall here proceed to inform you, in a regular and succinct manner, of the orders and resolutions which we have passed upon each paragraph by way of reply to it.

*General Letter per Worcester dated 25th January 1782.*

20. We have given directions to the Marine Paymaster to advance  
 Paragraph 5. £200 per month to each of the commanders of your chartered ships, and to adhere punctually to your orders respecting the accounts of the same.

21. We have caused an extract from the charterparties of the transports taken up by you respecting the restriction of sale to foreigners and natives of India to be published and shall enforce  
 Paragraphs 7-9. an observance of it as far as depends on our vigilance and endeavours. We received the charterparties of these ships from the Presidency of Fort St. George, and having ordered the accounts to be  
 15th March. adjusted by the Marine Paymaster he was directed to pay the balance of freight due to them at the rate of  
 25. 1d. per current rupee.

22. We have before informed you that Captain Buncle late commander of the *Warren* cartel ship which was detained at Mauritius has  
 Paragraph 11. claimed the amount of wages due to him, the officers and crew together with other charges incurred during the period of their confinement there, and that we had advanced the amount to him subject to your approbation. If any demand should be preferred to us on behalf of Mr. Campbell the 3rd officer, a copy of whose petition you enclose to us, we shall refer him to Captain Buncle, from whom he will receive his proportion of the payment.

23. The Board of Ordnance have been specially desired to pay attention to the regular delivery of certificates, in triplicate, for all  
 Paragraph 13. military stores landed at this Presidency, and the Board of Trade have received similar instructions for all copper so landed, which certificates will, as heretofore, be enclosed to you in the packets of the respective ships.

24. We have in a great measure anticipated your commands respecting the supply of the Presidency of Fort Marlborough,  
 Paragraph 16. a particular statement of the assistance which they have received from us since April last makes a number in the packet.

25. You will observe by the 6th article of the treaty concluded with the Marrattas that a suitable provision is made for the future subsistence  
 Paragraph 22. of Rogonaut Row, and such, as we conceive, he will have no cause to be dissatisfied with, as he had once before resigned himself of his own accord to the protection of Madajee

Sindia on whose good faith we have the greatest reliance. And letters have been written by Madajee Sindia to Rogonaut Row offering him protection and soliciting his acceptance of it, and from Mr. Anderson recommending it to him.

26. With respect to the conduct which we observed towards Mr. William Bolts we were cautiously governed throughout by your orders concerning him, and have regularly reported the particulars of it to you in our General Letter of the 14th January 1780, paragraph 38 &ca. After having been forbid any intercourse with Mr. Bolts, and having issued the prohibition of trade with him generally to all the dependants of this Government by public advertisement, it was not in our power to admit of any goods imported in his name to be passed through the custom house.

27. It is within the memory of some of the members that a letter of representation was presented from Mr. Bolts on the subject of some redwood belonging to him being detained by the custom house officers, but we did not think ourselves at liberty to receive it.

28. The other points of representation seem to be directed to the conduct of the Admiral at Fort St. George, which we presume he will explain to His Majesty's ministers.

29. These appointments and orders have been duly attended to as you will see by our proceedings upon them, but Mr. Samuel Grindall is deprived of the power of accepting your nomination by death.

30. The Commander in Chief of the forces in India having read the plan proposed to you by Major Burghall for maintaining a corps of miners and for appointing an Inspector and Director General of your fortifications, has minuted his disapprobation of it and declared it in his opinion unnecessary.

31. Two companies of His Majesty's 102nd Regiment, under the command of Captain Honeyborne, are the only part of His Majesty's forces who have yet been brought to this place. They arrived on the *Norfolk* which did not touch at Fort St. George. We immediately caused proper barracks to be allotted them in the fort, and we beg leave to assure you of our constant attention to the accommodation of any of His Majesty's forces who may be stationed at this Presidency. We have ordered advances to be made to Captain Honeyborne for the pay of his detachment, according to the rates allowed to the Company's troops: his receipts will be taken for the same upon account and transmitted to Fort St. George to be adjusted with the Paymaster of his regiment.

32. You have been already informed by our late letters of the rule

which, upon the same principle you have adopted, we thought it necessary to lay down with respect to the appointment or succession of officers to commands, who had been absent any time in England and should return with their rank to this country. We have published your present orders to the army, and the officers are consequently acquainted with your determination concerning the restoration of such as may quit the service to return to England upon any other plea than that of absolute necessity for the preservation of life.

Paragraph 58.  
General Letter.

33. With respect to the appointment of cadets in this country we beg leave to repeat that it was a measure of necessity, adopted to supply the great want of officers which exists upon this establishment when the strength of the army was unavoidably increased to supply the place of the detachment on foreign service, and when, independant of the casualties of the war, there was a deficiency in the original complement of officers requisite for the service of the army. The Governor General thinks it proper to add in his own name that while President of the late Council he never did agree to the appointment of any cadets but constantly rejected every application which was made to him for that purpose, except in one single instance of a volunteer, recommended by Sir Robert Barker when he commanded the army, who was appointed after two years of actual service; and that of those who have been appointed since the Regulating Act of 1773, only one was of his own actual recommendation (a Mr. Gardiner who lost his life at the seige of Lohar<sup>2</sup> and whose gallant behaviour upon that occasion did ample credit to the recommendation of him); all the rest who appear as proposed in the Governor General's name were only nominated by him, at the instance of other persons, as being the regular channel for introducing such appointments for the determination of the Board. But we have now the honor to assure you of our positive and unalterable resolution to adhere literally to your injunctions in desisting from the appointment of any more cadets in India, depending on you for the regular supply of a sufficient number from England to fill up the vacancies which may happen in the army.

34. We have taken the most effectual means in our power for carrying into execution your orders for laying a prohibition on the exportation of saltpetre, and you have been apprized of our proceedings in this respect. We shall complete your information by adding that the Danes have been restricted in their exports to the quantity which they had collected at Fredricksnagore for that purpose, amounting to about 27,000 maunds, and that by particular indulgence we allowed the supra-cargoes of two Portuguese ships to receive on board a small quantity for ballast, one of them having previously purchased it with that intent and the other paying an advanced price for the quantity which he required at the Compay's warehouse.

Paragraph 66.

General Letter.

35. This sudden embargo necessarily threw a weighty and unsaleable



load upon the owners of saltpetre, who had provided it for exportation or sale on the faith of a free trade for it from the upper provinces, and we found it necessary to relieve them from this loss by agreeing to purchase what they already possessed, at a moderate valuation, for which payment has been made in Company's interest notes.

36. Having, agreeably to the instructions contained in these paragraphs, called upon Mr. Hastings for the payment of interest at 8 per cent per annum upon the sum of 27,143 rupees drawn from the treasury by him in February 1775 on account of Captain Summers' estate for the period which the said sum remained in his hands, and upon Mr. Du Carell the acting attorney of Lord Clive's executors to pay back the sum of 29,169 rupees received by Mr. Francis and him from the treasury on the same account in January 1780, with interest also at the above rate; we find by a minute from Mr. Hastings that the sum drawn by him as attorney for the executors at that time was immediately credited to the estate of Lord Clive and interest allowed in account to the estate for the balance which occasionally remained in his hands, whenever that balance was considerable enough to make it an object. The estate therefore ought, if any interest is due to the Company, to be liable for it, as he never reaped any advantage from the possession of the sum in question. He drew it from the treasury in payment of the Company's bond for the benefit of the estate and without any knowledge of the assignment of that bond to the Company, which consequently ought to have been demanded from him, or payment of it refused when tendered for payment.

37. Mr. Du Carell has informed us in reply to our requisition, and we find his information just, that in consequence of instructions from the executors of the late Lord Clive in England dated 20th May 1780, and received here in 1781, Messrs. Wheler and J. Fowke, the acting attorneys then in Calcutta, did on the 5th of April 1781 give up an interest bond of the Honourable Company for the sum of rupees 29,196-12-, which was accordingly cancelled. This appears therefore to have been an anticipation of your orders so far as they relate to the claim on the actual attornies.

38. But if a further claim should still be made for the interest demanded from Mr. Hastings it may with propriety be urged, and the attornies will probably urge, the large sums which have almost constantly remained in deposit at the treasury on account of Lord Clive's estate, greatly over balancing the principal sum on which the interest is now demanded.

39. We have transmitted a copy of these paragraphs to your Board of Trade that they may use their endeavours to prevent any persons under their authority from granting assistance to the foreign companies or to individuals of foreign nations in the article of trade contrary to the 29th section of the Act of Parliament of the 21st year of His Present Majesty's reign. We

Paragraphs 69 to 72.  
Paragraphs 73 to 78.



have also published your prohibition against it, and shall add our efforts to enforce a proper obedience from all ranks of the Company's servants and from every person dependent on this Government.

40. We have notified to Mr. Prinsep your pleasure concerning the resumption of the grant made to him for working of copper mines in the district of Rotas, also for the abolition of his contract for a copper coinage, and required the surrender of the deeds from him.

Paragraph 84. 41. Will be replied to from the Revenue Department.

42. The gentlemen who came out [as] volunteers and went upon service under Colonel Pearse to the coast of Coromandle were, in consequence of the recommendations which we received of them, allowed to rise in the army, and have obtained commissions in it assigning them a rank which it is now out of our power to deprive them of.

43. We have caused the best horses belonging to the two regiments of cavalry on this establishment, which had been incorporated into one regiment and brought down to the Presidency for that purpose, to be selected and marched over land to Fort St. George, for the purpose of mounting Sir John Burgoyne's corps of light dragoons; and they left Midnapore in their way thither about a month ago.

44. We have furnished the Military Paymaster General and Commissary General with copies of your orders concerning the pay of the King's troops, and specially enjoined their attention to the rules therein laid down for their guidance.

45. We have notified to the provincial Commander in Chief and Acting Adjutant General your orders respecting the dispatch of general lists of the officers and returns of the troops on this establishment to you by every possible opportunity; and we may venture to assure you of a regular compliance with it.

46. We shall pay due attention to your resolutions, conveyed to us in these paragraphs, concerning the allowances to be made to the officers of His Majesty's navy who may arrive at this place; and have accordingly furnished the Civil Paymaster with a copy for his guidance.

47. We have written to you fully on the subject of these paragraphs, and we have the pleasure to add that by a letter from Mr. Paxton, the agent of Mr. Carmichael late Paymaster of the garrisons, in reply to one written to him by our order, he gave us a prospect of receiving a considerable part

of the balance due from Mr. Carmichael to the Company; and has since made a tender of a quantity of broad cloth imported by a Danish ship upon that account at an advance of 75 per cent upon the English invoice, which we have agreed to accept. The amount of the invoice is £5,075-1-0.

48. It may not be improper however to observe in this place that the large balances which were collected and had been allowed to accumulate in the hands of the paymasters proceeded not so much from a want of attention to your orders of the 29th March 1774 on the part of Government as to the false estimates of these paymasters who avoided giving proper credit for the full balance remaining in their hands, but by stating every demand which could possibly occur, whether actually made or not, and retaining their balances to answer those demands, when they occurred, continued delivering estimates which could not be summarily investigated and checked, had they been suspected, by reason of the general backwardness of the paymasters to send in regular monthly accounts notwithstanding the most peremptory and repeated orders, issued by us, for the punctual close and transmission of them to the Paymaster General. And we may add the peculiar situation of the Government at that time and the unavoidable reserve subsisting between the members of it, which could not fail to weaken the subordination due from its officers, was in some measure a cause of this evasion of the orders. By these the delinquent paymasters contrived to receive the amount of their monthly estimates from the different treasuries, to which they applied for cash, without any difficulty or doubt of their correctness till the fraud was discovered.

49. You will be informed from our Department of Inspection what we have already done respecting the contracts here alluded to. We have required a general list of all contracts now in force  
 Paragraphs 117 to 126. to be laid before us with the periods at which they will respectively expire, as a necessary ground to our further proceedings.

50. As you have forborne to give your final sentiments with respect to our transactions with the Berar Army, commanded by Chimnaje Boosla, we also shall wait your final orders respecting  
 Paragraphs 127 to 130. them, in the fullest conviction that on a complete and candid revisal of our measures we shall obtain your applause, both for the zeal which dictated them and for their happy effect.

51. You have already been informed that the grant to Captain Macgowan for opening the navigation of the Cossimbuzar River was  
 Paragraphs 131 to 132. annulled and a compensation for his expences was awarded to him in consequence. The navigation by nature is now free from impost and no toll of any kind will be allowed to be collected on boats going through it.

52. In compliance with this order we have likewise abolished all fees collected at the custom house upon the goods composing the Company's investment, and forbid the Collector to levy any duties whatsoever upon the articles of the Company's trade.

Paragraph 133.

53. We beg leave to inform you, except in instances where the contrary has been specially ordered or permitted, that we have made it an invariable rule to defer granting ye bills of exchange, which we were authorized by your licence to draw upon you until the period appointed for the dispatch of the last fleet of the season. But the proprietors when once they obtain possession of their bills are at liberty to forward them by foreign vessels or such other opportunities as may offer, and these will often be more expeditious than the Company's ships which sail in company and are frequently detained for convoy. We conceive this is a consequence which could not otherwise be guarded against, but by a clause precluding the bills from acceptance until the arrival of the ships on which they were drawn or a specific time limited for it in the event of the ships being taken or lost; upon this subject we shall consult your law officers.

Paragraph 135.

54. We think it proper to inform you that the ship *Nottingham* has not been sold in Bengal but dispatched, on account of the owners, with a cargo of grain to Madras.

Paragraph 136.

55. We should certainly have published your intentions for opening the trade in raw silk to England had we not, previous to the receipt of your orders, engaged for a large quantity on account of the Company's investment, which is provided at a considerable reduction of the former price. A further obstacle likewise occurs to prevent us, for the present, from carrying your plan into execution, which is a deficiency of tonnage, having at this time a greater quantity of goods remaining to be shipped for England than we can expect to lade this season for want of vessels to receive it.

Paragraphs 139 to 146.

56. It will be necessary to refer you to the proceedings of the Board of Trade and to their advices for information of all our respective proceedings concerning the obligation on the Company to purchase from Mr. Prinsep the buildings erected at Pulta for a chintz manufactory, and the means of recovering the amount of the loan made to him by the Board to Trade.

Paragraphs 148 to 151.  
17th February.  
24th March.

57. Having formed a list of goods to be provided by means of the loan raised by a subscription investment, and entered into contracts for the same which included the article of chintz, for the present year, before the receipt of your orders, and advances having been made to the contractor accordingly we must of course receive the produce of them before we can put a stop to the provision of printed goods. But we shall then

be released from our engagement and left at liberty to follow your directions on this point, which indeed do not forbid the exportation of them till after the year 1783, and are therefore by no means incompatible with what has been done.

58. With respect to the building at Pulta for a chintz manufactory we were of opinion that the terms of the original contract made with Mr. Prinsep for 10 years dated in February 1773, and which expired on the 15th ultimo, did not actually bind the Company to take the buildings at all events, but only reserved to them an option of taking them on paying a certain stipulated price, which right was intended to be vested in the Company to prevent the contractor from taking the advantage of his possessing the manufactory to exact his own terms for the renewal of his contract. We accordingly declined taking the buildings, and referred it to the Board of Trade to pursue measures for realizing the amount of their loan to Mr. Prinsep by other means than the proposed acceptance of these buildings.

59. The Board of Trade have since submitted to us the opinion of the Company's Standing Counsel upon this clause of the contract, wherein he declares that, in his judgement, the condition  
 24th March. of it is obligatory on the Company to purchase the buildings from Mr. Prinsep at the expiration of the term of his contract; and Mr. Prinsep has claimed the right, which is reserved to either party in case any differences should arise, of referring the case to arbitration. We have therefore authorized and desired the Board of Trade to appoint proper persons to arbitrate the matter on the part of the Company, and as we differ totally from the Company's Counsel in opinion of the  
 24th March. design and obligation of the clause contained in the contract respecting the purchase of the buildings, we have explained our sense of it to the Board of Trade for the information of the arbitrators.

60. We shall pay due obedience to the orders contained in this paragraph, but humbly submit to you our wish that you would be pleased to  
 Paragraph 152. allow us, in very particular cases, the latitude of granting brevet commissions to officers appointed to very important and remote commands and distinguished by very eminent services. It is the only reward which we can bestow on uncommon merit or authority, which we can give in cases in which your service shall most essentially demand it; we will promise that the most effectual care shall be taken that this license shall in no instance operate to the supercession of your other officers on the same establishment, an effect which we have already most completely guarded against in a clause expressly inserted in their commissions for that purpose.

61. We have delivered the list of investment, referred to in this  
 Paragraph 153. paragraph, to the Board of Trade, and due attention will be paid to it in the next provision if no alteration shall in the meantime be made by your more recent orders.



62. The *Prince William*, having been laden at Fort St. George with stores for the garrison at Negapatam, was run ashore near that place to prevent her falling into the possession of the French fleet.

Paragraph 154.

63. We shall strictly adhere to your orders respecting the allowances to be granted to any future provincial Commander in Chief, and we beg leave to inform you that those enjoyed by General Stibbert have not been altered or affected by any increase of rank which we have given him.

Paragraph 155.

64. Will be replied to from the Revenue Department.

Paragraph 156.

65. Replied to in the 26th paragraph of this letter.

Paragraph 157.

*General Letter 30th April 1782.*

66. We are concerned to have incurred the reproof which is contained in this paragraph for what should be attributed entirely to accident and not to neglect. The *Neptune*, which was under sailing orders with the *Belmont*, was to have carried our original dispatches and proceedings, but being disabled from going the packets were transferred from her to the *Rochford* which was shortly afterwards dispatched. This ship was detained at Madras, and her cargo taken out there by order of the President and Council. The packets were therefore again removed and put on board the *Admiral Hughes*, in which they must have undergone the fate mentioned in the 7th paragraph of your letter, to which we now reply.

Paragraph 2.

67. As it was impossible to foresee the event which happened to this packet and which deprived you of the early receipt of the advices we had prepared for you, we hope we shall be held fully acquitted on this score from any imputed inattention in not writing to you. With respect to the dispatches from the Governor General to Major Scott it naturally occurs that they were more fortunate in their safe arrival than ours. And we entreat that upon any future instance of this kind you will give us the credit of having complied with your orders if any accidents should happen, they no doubt sometimes will happen, to prevent your hearing from us, as it is our positive determination to comply regularly and fully with your orders in this respect.

Paragraph 3.

68. Will be answered from the Revenue Department.

Paragraph 6.

*General Letter 18th June 1782.*

69. We have ordered copies of all the papers lost in our packet



by the *Admiral Hughes* to be prepared, and they shall be transmitted you  
 as soon as ready; but from their bulk it will require a  
 Paragraph 2. considerable time to make transcripts of them, notwithstanding the additional number of clerks who will be employed for that purpose.

70. As we already transmit copies of our proceedings to you in triplicate, and the additional duty of supplying the place of any which may be lost as well as of preparing the particular copies of our advices to you for the use of His Majesty's ministers cannot be performed but at a very considerable expence to the Company, the salaries of clerks being much higher in this country than in Europe, and as so much increase of their duty amidst the hurry of a dispatch tends to throw the business of the public offices into confusion, we humbly submit to you the propriety and advantage of having such copies prepared in England.

71. Soon after the receipt of your letter we appointed Mr. Stephen Sullivan to the office of Agent for the purpose of supplying His Majesty's ships with stores and provisions under the Act of  
 Paragraph 3. Parliament and according to such regulations as you might establish for the conduct of this business with the Commissioners of the Navy in England. We wrote to Admiral Sir Edward Hughes informing him of what we had done, and being ready, as far as lay in our power to carry the provision of the Act into execution, we  
 6th March. requested that he would give us as early notice as possible of any articles which he might require from this Presidency.

72. Understanding by the Admiral's letters to the Government at Fort St. George that the fleet on its return there would be distressed for biscuit we ordered 12,000 bags to be immediately shipped from hence. We have delivered a copy of your orders to the Agent, with injunctions to adjust his accounts regularly in the manner you have prescribed for that purpose, and to furnish quadruplicate copies to be transmitted to you by different opportunities.

73. We shall pay strict obedience to your several  
 Paragraph 6. orders respecting the powers of your Secret Committee.

*General Letter 12th July 1782.*

74. This ship *Brilliant* was unfortunately wrecked at Joanna, as we have before advised you. Captain Mears embarked from that place on the substitute cutter in which he arrived at Bombay,  
 Paragraph 6. and the *Nassau*, Captain Gore, has been dispatched by that Presidency to bring away the people who were saved from the wreck of the *Brilliant* and remained at Joanna.

75. From the accumulated quantity of saltpetre which the increase

of the Company's proportion of the manufacture at Patna, since the shares of the Dutch and French have been withheld from those nations, and the purchases made in consequence of the embargo as before advised, have brought into the public warehouses, and from a certainty of the great demand for it in Europe we wished to have increased that article of consignment to you, and we believe the plan which we have adopted will enable us to do it in some degree without deviating from the letter of your orders, as the refinement of it, which is to take place for this end, will comprize a larger quantity of actual petre in the same bulk of tonnage as before.

76. In consequence of this and the 45th paragraph of the same letter we wrote to the Chief and Council of the Danish settlement at Fredricksnagore informing them of the humane regulations which you had been pleased to establish respecting the natives of this country, whether domestic servants or *lascars*, who might be carried to England. We recommended the same rule to the Danes and requested that they would not allow any native servants belonging to English passengers to be received on board the ships of their nation, until the passengers should have produced certificates from us that proper indemnification bonds had been granted to prevent their servants from being left destitute in England or thrown upon the charge of the Company.

77. The Chief and Council at Fredricksnagore have readily promised a compliance with this request and assured us that by a particular edict of the King of Denmark all owners of ships and others who shall carry *lascars* or any denomination of natives from India, are bound to maintain them in Europe and to provide for their return to this country.

78. We have caused this order to be made public, and shall take care that no precious stones or other private consignments of any kind shall be registered by the Company's packet vessels, unless the owners previously consent to the condition of receiving them at the first port in Great Britain or Ireland at which the vessel may arrive and remain, which condition we shall order to be expressed in the bills of lading; but we have never suffered any bullion to be registered since the prohibition of it.

79. We have neither received copies of your resolutions nor of the Act of Parliament here alluded to in your packet by the *Greyhound*. We have nevertheless transmitted to the Board of Trade extracts of your several orders respecting the suspension of the chintz manufacture, as already mentioned in a former part of this letter, and we promise you the strictest attention to them in the next year's investment.

80. We have furnished the Board of Trade with copies of these paragraphs for the information of the persons under their authority concerned in the management of the silk filatures.

81. These have been carried into execution in the Revenue Department in which the grants took place and will be answered from thence.  
Paragraphs 17-8.

82. We have caused your sentiments upon the conduct of Mr. George Bright to be made known to all the covenanted servants of the Company's upon this establishment.  
Paragraph 20.

83. We shall not fail to pay attention to your directions in favor of Mr. Simon Ewart, and have the pleasure to acquaint you that the arrangements which are about to take place, in consequence of your further commands in this, will enable us to do it very shortly. We have notified your recommendation of Mr. A. E. Young to the Board of Trade.  
Paragraphs 21-2.

84. The appointments which you have been pleased to make will of course take effect on the arrival of the parties.  
Paragraphs 23 to 35.

85. We have already had the honour to inform you that Sir Robert Chambers had resigned the office of President of the Judicature established for the French and Dutch settlements at Chinsura. His letter, which will best explain to you his motives for accepting, exercising and afterwards relinquishing this trust, is entered on our separate proceedings, and makes a number in the packet. We shall observe your prohibition in future regarding the allotment of offices to the judges of the Supreme Court.  
Paragraph 36.  
Consultation 15th November.

86. In consequence of the 26th paragraph of your instructions of the 29th March 1774, which you now quote, we ordered our Secret and Political Letters, and our Revenue Letters to be transmitted to you in duplicate by each dispatch, concerning these departments in general to contain all the points which it might be necessary for you to impart to His Majesty's ministers; but as you have been pleased to make the rule more general we shall not fail in future to comply with it, and though a multiplicity of copies must retard our dispatches we shall endeavour to lessen the time and inconvenience of it as much as possible. We have also notified your order in this respect to the Board of Trade.  
Paragraph 37.

87. The difficulty of raising money upon credit for the public service led us necessarily to adopt various plans for that purpose. The first loan received upon common interest notes at 8 per cent per annum was certainly the most simple, but the others were intended to be more beneficial to the Company at the same time that they tended to accommodate particular individuals who otherwise would not have subscribed to them. The 4 per cent remittance loan produced an immediate supply repayable in a term of no less than five years, with an interest of only half the rate of the common loan,  
Paragraph 38.

and in fact was not to be an additional burthen upon your treasury in England, while you permitted as usual any drafts to be made upon it from hence, for it was particularly expressed and always intended that the drafts on this account should form a part of them. The scheme of annuities met with no success, as you will have seen from the list transmitted to you of the few subscribers to it, nevertheless we have ordered your determination to redeem this loan to be signified immediately to the annuitants or their agents, but as the terms of it express that it should be redeemable before the 1st of January 1783 and not afterwards, it will be in their power to decline our offer if they think proper.

Paragraph 39.  
Paragraph 3 of  
General Letter 18th  
June. 88. We beg leave to refer you to a former part of our letter for a reply to this paragraph, a copy of which we have also delivered to the Agent for supplying the fleet for his guidance.

89. Mr. Murray's bond was not received back by the *Greyhound* packet; when it arrives we shall take such steps as may be necessary to recover the amount.  
Paragraph 40.

90. We have duly complied with your commands, contained in these paragraphs, for abolishing the post of Agent for supplying stores to the other Presidencies. We had previously forbid his engaging any more tonnage for continuing his supplies, and confined the duties of his office to the loading of the Company's chartered ships and Mr. Touchet's vessels, which had been long contracted to the Company in liquidation of his debt to them.  
Paragraphs 41 to 44.  
Consultation  
December 1782.

91. The great exertions which were necessary for saving the settlement of Madras from impending famine and the great benefit which the Company derived from possessing a quantity of grain at that place, where it constantly bore a price considerably above the charge of sending it thither, whether such benefit arose from the sale of the surplus remaining after the wants of the army and garrison had been satisfied, or from avoiding the necessity of purchasing grain at the market price to supply them, were strong arguments with us for fixing the commission of the Agent at a rate apparently so high. And the inconvenience which he sustained, besides the heavy charge of interest during the exhausted state of the public treasury, from being obliged to negotiate with individuals to deposit with them our orders upon the treasury in his favor to take up money upon those and upon his own credit, for the performance of the public service, while the most dreadful consequences might have been apprehended from a failure in our supplies to Madras, merited also some consideration, especially as upon the whole the invoice prices fell far short of that which the Government of Fort St. George imposed upon individuals when they compelled them to sell their grain to the Company, although this was of course less than they could have sold it for in the market. When we had experienced the extent to which the supply was requisite and the

Consultations 22nd  
October 1781, 21st  
January 1782.



sum to which the Agent's commission would amount, notwithstanding the deductions for interest and other charges to which it  
 25th March 1782. was subject as stated in his letter, we thought it proper as long ago as March 1782 to make a considerable reduction in the commission, which accordingly took place from the 31st of December preceding.

92. Having transmitted a copy of your remarks and orders to Mr. Auriol, [he] has addressed a letter to us which contains a particular detail of the agency; and as the arguments set forth in it are highly deserving of your attention we beg leave to refer you to a copy of it, which makes a number in this packet.

93. But although we refer you to Mr. Auriol's letter for the circumstantial detail of this transaction we think it proper to bring the conclusion of it more pointedly before your notice, that you may see, on the clearest demonstration, how much we have consulted your interest and the wants of your Presidency of Fort St. George in an arrangement which you have so severely condemned, as the gross and ungenerous misrepresentations of those from whom we merited a better return, both for this and every other exertion we have made to save them from that destruction which would inevitably have attended them but from our timely and effectual succours.

94. Your sentiments on the subjects of the agency were no sooner imparted to Mr. Auriol than he made us an offer of his experience and services to continue the supplies for the current year without any commission or compensation whatever for his trouble, wishing to remove the impression, which was implied by your letter, that his advantages had excluded [exceeded] the value of his services. We have nevertheless, in obedience to your orders, published an advertisement for the receipt of proposals for performing this branch of the public service by contract, and upon the day appointed we shall proceed to consider such as may have been tendered.

95. As a preliminary to it we have required from the Accountant General a complete average account of the rate of all the supplies of rice sent by the Agent to Madras on vessels of every kind excepting the Company's chartered ships, which were exempt from the charge of freight, and Mr. Touchet's vessels which were also exempt from the Agent's commission.

96. For our proceedings on this point we beg leave to refer to the  
 Paragraph 45. former part of this letter, paragraph 76.

97. We have duly signified your orders regarding His Majesty's  
 Paragraphs 46-50. troops to the proper officers. For a more particular reply to these paragraphs we beg leave to refer you



to our letter from the Secret Department, contenting ourselves in this place with informing you that we have accordingly annulled the appointment of Mr. R. J. Sullivan as Resident at the Court of the Nabob Walla Jah.

Paragraphs 51-2. 98. Will be explained from the Revenue Department.

99. We have already informed you, and beg leave to repeat that the plan of supplying the treasury at Canton by the produce of the Company's opium was not a matter of choice but necessity. We had the produce of the manufacture for two years lying on hand unsaleable on account of the dangerous navigation for ships of no force in the Streights of Malacca which were infested by the enemy's cruizers. Neither of the modes which we adopt under these circumstances would have been agreed to as a public measure, could individuals have been inclined to engage in the opium trade. We therefore beg you to view the transaction in this light. Part of the opium sent on the *Betsey* to Rhio was sold at 350 dollars per chest, and the whole would have sold well, but by a treacherous connivance of the Chief of Rhio with the Dutch the former suffered the neutrality of his port to be violated, and the vessel was attacked and captured, under the cover of his gun, with the remainder of her cargo which was on board and which the Chief would not suffer to be landed, but on application for permission promised his protection to the vessel, the more effectually to lull the apprehension of the commander and to cover his designs.

100. With respect to the consignment sent by the *Nonsuch* to the supercargoes at Canton we had very good information, before we dispatched it, that the nominal prohibition of opium at China was no impediment to the constant and open importation and sale of it at that place; and the supercargoes never state this as an objection against it, although they after the receipt and sale of the opium by the *Nonsuch* used such arguments as occurred to them to enforce their request that we would not repeat the consignment if we could possibly supply them by any other means. As you declare it to be unbecoming we shall understand this as a prohibition and most strictly conform to it.

101. We have given the necessary orders at the treasury for the discharge of the bonds due to the estate of the late Captain Edward Roach, or for transferring the amount in exchange for bills upon you in favour of the executor William Bensley Esquire.

102. We beg leave to assure you that we shall strictly adhere to this restriction in point of drafts to be made on your treasury, excepting only those drafts which in virtue of your authority and by the obligation of former engagements we are under the necessity of granting in favor of the subscribers to the investment loan, and the bondholders of the 4 per cent remittance loan, three fifths

or three annual proportions of which remain yet to be paid off, unless we shall find it necessary to continue the same mode of providing an investment for the ensuing season.

103. In order to carry your intention in this order fully into execution we have required a return from each department in the service of all the Europeans not being covenanted servants of the Company who are employed under them respectively. Many of their returns have already been sent in and we shall take an early occasion to proceed upon them to the accomplishment of your commands.

104. We have omitted the appointment of Mr. James Lucy Dighton conformably to your orders, and shall observe the restriction which you have thought proper to lay us under in this paragraph.

Paragraph 61. 105. Will be replied to from the Revenue Department.

Paragraphs 62-4. 106. Will be replied to from the Secret Department.

Paragraphs 65-9. 107. These several appointments will accordingly take effect.

108. You have already been informed of our resolution not to grant any further brevet commissions to officers going home on the pension; the particular instances in which we had yielded to extraordinary circumstances, strongly recommended to us for this purpose, have been laid before you, and in reply to this paragraph of your letter we beg leave to repeat our above resolution which is so conformable to it.

109. We confined our indulgence of double the usual amount of certificates to the commanders of your ships to those of one season, which were few in number and granted under peculiar circumstances as represented to you at the time; we have refused every application which has been made to us since then for the like privilege and shall continue to decline granting any similar additions in future.

110. We have ordered the Company's Attorney to furnish us with a particular state of all the suits which have been ordered to be commenced, and of those in which the Company is any way engaged, which we expect from him in time to be transmitted to you a number in this packet.

111. We beg leave to acquaint you that we have never granted certificates for the pension to any surgeons or assistant surgeons attached

to the civil establishment under this Presidency, nor do we recollect to have ever received any applications for them. The Fund has appeared to us and been generally understood to be a military fund, and instituted solely for the benefit of persons belonging to the army, among whom indeed we have considered conductors of artillery which is the only doubtful class whose certificates have received our confirmation of them.

*General Letter 28th August 1782.*

Paragraphs 2-3. 112. Will be replied to from the Secret Department.

113. In obedience to the orders contained in this paragraph Mr. Francis Fowke has been appointed to the station of Resident at Benares and Mr. William Markham recalled from thence. Paragraphs 4-5. For our proceedings upon this occasion we beg leave Consultations 7th to refer you to the consultations noted in the margin. March, 10th March. When the appointment had been made the Governor General moved that Mr. Fowke should be invested with all the powers and authorities of his predecessor, which were judged essential to the proper execution of his trust, and we Consultation 24th March. have furnished him with letters and instructions accordingly, to which we beg leave to refer.

114. The agency for boats, lately held by Mr. Francis Fowke, has been abolished, and that service shall be executed by contract in conformity to your commands.

115. The appointment of Mr. Bristow to Lucknow had taken place on the special recommendation of the Governor General sometime previous to the receipt of your letter, as Paragraph 6. we had the honor to inform you in ours of the 7th December 1782.

116. We have published in General Orders the purport of your directions, contained in these paragraphs, for the reduction of the establishment of field officers to its former complement, Paragraphs 7-15. and fixed the first of this month for the retrenchment which is to take place from the pay and allowances of the supernumerary majors and captains.

117. We have likewise communicated these paragraphs to General Stibbert, from whom we have received a letter, copy of which we enclose, promising a further reply which he hopes will be satisfactory to you. In the meantime he requests your attention to his letters of the 24th December 1780 and 15th April 1781, which you will find entered on our consultations in your possession.

118. For our own part we beg leave to assure you that no persons could possess a higher respect for the opinion and experience of the

Commander in Chief of the forces in India than the members who composed the Board at that time. But the regulations which we adopted without his participation in them were founded upon the same principle which had operated on his mind when he formed the prior arrangement of the army, and were intended as an improvement upon it, dictated by the experience he had of its effect; and the necessity of immediately replacing on the most economical footing the large detachment which had been sent to his assistance would not admit of our waiting to consult him upon it. For the future it is our intention to adhere literally to the restriction which you have been pleased to prescribe to us.

119. We beg leave to acquaint you that the promotion of Lieutenant Colonel Blair to the brevet rank of colonel was made with a special reservation in favor of the rights of Lieutenant Colonel Tottingham who was not intended to be superseded by it when he rose to that rank. This officer is since gone to England, and Colonel Blair derives no additional pay or emolument from his advancement.

120. Major Peter Grant has long since embarked for England but we have thought it proper to publish to the army the sense which you entertain of his unworthy conduct.

Paragraph 16.

121. It is our duty, and we shall do all that lies in our power, to enforce the due observance of the order, contained in this paragraph, for sending home any officers who may be cashiered by the sentence of a general court martial.

Paragraph 17.

122. We have communicated the paragraph to the Commander in Chief, the application having been made at his instance.

Paragraph 18.

123. A civil suit having been instituted against Major Balfour, the senior of those officers who refused to submit their property in the Beedjygurr prize money to the consideration of the Board, with intention to establish the Company's right to the proportion received by him, and consequently by that precedent to the whole, and the same witnesses having been examined in this cause whose evidence would be necessary at a general court martial, it appears to us under the present circumstances that it would be improper and we very much doubt whether it would be legal to commence a criminal prosecution against the commanding officer who has not denied to submit his right to the judgment of the Board. Indeed the Commander in Chief has declared it as his opinion that he could not hold himself justified in granting a warrant for a general court martial to be held upon Major Popham while the above suit is depending.

Paragraph 19.

124. The notice contained in these paragraphs of military appointments shall be duly attended to.

Paragraphs 20-1.



125. Our motive for authorizing the construction of a road from Calcutta to Chunar was the great utility of it compared to the smallness of the expence to be incurred for such an extensive undertaking, and the prospect there was that the amount would be saved to the Company in a short course of time in the march of the troops and carriage of stores by such a ready and easy communication. Our not having mentioned it to you in our advices was certainly an omission, but in such a variety of diffusive matter as composes the bulk of our records and the subjects of our proceedings we must claim your indulgence if by any accident or inadvertency the mention of every particular event or circumstance should escape us.

Paragraphs 22-6.  
Road to Benares.

126. We have intimated the purport of your orders concerning the reward of Captain Rankin for this service to him, and as the most difficult part of the road is completed we have desired him to finish the remainder of it in the manner he intended, when the restriction which you have been pleased to lay for the expence of its repairs shall be punctually attended to. We beg leave to inform you that the whole amount hitherto advanced for this service is *sicca* rupees 1,09,568-15-6.

127. We cannot quit this subject without remarking how hard it is that we should receive your censure for an act for which we did think ourselves entitled to your approbation, as the following summary view of it will demonstrate, if you will allow us credit for the facts on which it is constructed. The distance of Chunar from Calcutta by the present road is 600 miles; it will be reduced to 398 exactly by that now making. This passes in its course over the most impracticable parts of the western quarter of Bengal, through woods, rocks and hills hitherto impassable, the whole expence on the estimate if the commission be included will be *sicca* rupees 2,88,875.

128. Captain Rankin has assured us that the real expence will fall short of that amount, but admitting it to be equal to the estimate, the expence per mile, which we have a right to apply to the actual distance by the present road, is only *sicca* rupees 503 per mile, and calculated on the new road is 725 *sicca* rupees per mile. We believe that we may venture to refer it to your comparison of the expence which would attend a similar work in any part of Europe in the conviction that it would be done no where so cheap.

129. Allow us, in all submission, to add that we think ourselves entitled to some indulgence even if the expence of this work were, as you have stated it, unreasonable, since our exertions have produced for every rupee of expence, which you have condemned on this principle, an excess of many hundreds by new and extraordinary resources. The credit of your means is preserved in the public opinion by undertakings of such magnitude and notoriety, and they are at least seasonable in the means which they afford of facilitating and quickening your military operations at a time so peculiarly requiring dispatch.



130. We have given proper orders to the Commissioners of Customs for a compliance with this paragraph, and they will accordingly cause every package of private trade on board your ships to be marked and registered by the owners. We have placed Mr. Ewart on the list of servants in the rank you have thought proper to assign him, and beg leave to refer you to a former part of this letter for our intention with respect to this gentleman.

Paragraph 28.

Paragraph 30.

131. We shall pay strict attention to the observance of this prohibition of privilege to the captains of packets in future.

Paragraph 31.

132. This paragraph is replied to in a former part of this letter by our observation upon your preceding orders respecting bills of exchange.

Paragraph 32.

133. We have signified to Mr. Larkins your favorable sentiments and determination respecting him. We are sorry to inform you that Mr. Larkins from a total want of health has been obliged to resolve on making a sea voyage to Bombay for his recovery.

Paragraph 33.

134. We are sorry that it should have escaped you to refer to our letter of the 15th of March 1774, paragraph 92, accompanying which you will find that we transmitted to you the report of our Military Paymaster General upon the claim of the executors of the late Captain Spellman, which contained all the particulars that he could learn concerning it. As the memorial from them, to which you now refer us, was not received by the *Greyhound* packet we shall wait the arrival of the fleet by which we expect it will come, and submit it to our present Paymaster General who, from the lights which it may afford him, will possibly be able to inform us of further particulars concerning those transactions and enable us to decide on the justice of the demand.

Paragraph 34.

135. We have notified this order to the Paymaster General, to prevent him paying any bills drawn on account of Major Fairfax, and beg leave to assure you of our observance of it on all future occasion.

Paragraph 39.

136. We likewise propose to pay every possible attention to this rule concerning the establishment of packets. The present packet must be an exception to it, as the *Surprize* is a vessel not belonging to the Company but taken up for the purpose of carrying dispatches which we deemed of consequence sufficient to warrant our engaging her on the terms proposed to convey to you the earliest possible intelligence of the important events to which they relate.

Paragraphs 40-3.

137. A copy of the charterparty of the *Surprize* is sent a number

in the packet; you will find the amount at which she is lett for this voyage to the Company is 10,000 rupees per month until her return, 4 months of which are to be paid in advance, and the period for which she remains in England or Ireland is at your option to be paid there, and for the accommodation of the owner; we accordingly recommended it; there was no other vessel fit for the purpose in the river or within the command of this Government, necessity obliged us to accede to Colonel Watson's terms. She will cost the Company much less than the packet dispatched by Lord Clive in 1766.

138. The expence of the freight forming only one gross sum may appear exorbitant, but we request you to compare its aggregate amount at the expiration of the voyage with the expence which has attended any other vessel of the same burthen which, at any period of time, has been dispatched to England with your expresses, and we believe you will find it by far the most moderate.

139. The *Swallow* and *Nancy* are the only two remaining vessels belonging to the Bengal Marine, unless a small vessel equipped for Captain Thomas Forrest (whom you had appointed to this establishment) and lately returned from the eastward can be considered so. A return of the complement of each, with a list of the officers attached to the Bengal Marine, shall be transmitted to you by this packet.

140. Having now, as we hope, replied fully and explicitly to your several last letters we shall resume the subject of our own transactions in the common course of business.

141. We have informed you, from the Secret Department, of the departure of Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote on the *Resolution* for Madras, to resume the command of the army in the Carnatic.

142. When we no longer entertained any hopes of the arrival of the *Medea* frigate on which Sir Eyre Coote had intended to embark for Madras, and his proceeding thither was of the utmost importance to the service we resolved to freight the *Nonsuch*, belonging to Colonel Watson, which was returned from China, for the purpose of conveying him and of transporting a supply of treasure for the army. After we had settled the terms and the vessel was under preparation the *Resolution*, a swift sailing coppered ship, arrived from Madras and Captain Mercer who was the owner made an offer of her to accommodate the General and a part of his suite, for the consideration only of freight at six  
 27th February, 3rd March. rupees per bag upon 4,000 bags of rice, which part of her cargo he agreed to leave out in order to keep the ship in a sailing trim. As the General preferred this ship, on account of her superior accommodations for his family which he meant to take with him, we agreed to engage her.

143. His Majesty's ship *San Carlos* arrived here about this time, and furnished the means of affording additional protection to the General's

person and to the treasure by sailing in company with him, a point which we deemed of no small consequence when we knew that at least two of the enemy's ships of force were cruizing off Madras to intercept him.

144. As the *San Carlos* was more fit, in every respect, to perform the service for which the *Nonsuch* was still under engagement, by acting as a safeguard to the General, accommodating part of the officers of his suite and transporting a proportion of the treasure, Colonel Watson who assured us that he had no other view in letting the *Nonsuch* than the performance of this service desired leave to withdraw her from it in order to dispatch her, agreeably to her original destination, to China, to which we accordingly agreed.

145. We have taken the opportunity of Sir Eyre Coote's return to Madras to send with him 100 European artillery men and 200 artillery *lascars*, to compleate that branch of the detachment from this place.

146. Sir Eyre Coote thought it proper, before his departure, to recommend to us in strong terms and through us to your notice and favor  
 15th March. Mr. Thomas Graham who has served him in the station of Persian Interpreter during all the late campaigns in the Carnatic, and is still attendant on him in his return thither. We are induced, as well from a persuasion of Mr. Graham's merit and abilities as from our respect to the Commander in Chief, to second his recommendation of him.

147. At the particular solicitation of the Commander in Chief we have yielded our acquiescence to an honorary distinction which he wished  
 20th March. to confer upon Captains James Moore and Patrick Hay, the two senior officers of the rank with the detachment in the Carnatic, by granting them the temporary brevet rank of majors while the service continued, without any increase of pay or advantages and without prejudice to the rank of their seniors upon this establishment.

148. This is a deviation from your orders which we could not refuse to an officer who merited so much from us and more from your Honourable Court than you can conceive, not possessing as we do the knowledge of the very infirm state of health under which his zeal has prompted him to return to a service of such difficulty and fatigue as may prove fatal to him independantly of the ordinary hazards of war but to which his spirit will afford him the resources of activity; and we are morally certain that an honourable close of the war depends solely on his conduct and reputation. We repeat the promise made in the 60th paragraph of this letter that for the future we will not, in a single instance, deviate from your orders, and we trust that with this explanation we shall have your pardon for the preceding instances in which we have departed from them.

149. The Commander in Chief having thought it necessary to appoint Lieutenant Colonel Cathcart to be Quartermaster General and Major

Grattan to be Adjutant General of His Majesty's forces in India, and to request that these officers might be allowed the same establishments as were drawn for the corresponding stations in the Company's service, wherever they might be, we shall accordingly comply as far as the case may regard this Presidency.

150. In consequence of a representation made to the Commander in Chief by Captain Hearsey, whom he had left in the controul of the Bullock Department for the carriage of grain for the army in the Carnatic, stating that he experienced insuperable difficulties in his Department from the interference of a person appointed by the Government of Fort St. George to keep the grain accounts and to collect the money for grain delivered out, which he begged the Commander in Chief's interference to relieve him from, least the Department should fall again into its former confusion the Commander in Chief thought it necessary to request that we would recommend the plan which he had established for this duty to the Government at Fort St. George, especially as it had succeeded beyond his expectation and Captain Hearsey had shewn great care and attention to reduce it to regularity.

151. We mentioned these circumstances to the Government at Fort St. George, and depending on their readiness to leave every point of detail, which might tend to facilitate the march or supply of the army, to the sole arrangement of the Commander in Chief, whose experience enabled him, and whose credit required him to adopt the most eligible and effectual means for that purpose, we intimated our wish that they would revoke any appointment which they had made contrary to his plan and of which he disapproved.

152. A list of the officers in the King's service ordered home upon duty for the recruiting service, in consequence of His Majesty's command signified to the Commander in Chief, having been laid before us by him we transmitted a copy of it to the President and Council at Fort St. George where most of the officers had been stationed, and requested that they might be accommodated with passages by the Company's ships. The President and Council at Fort St. George in reply to our letter quoted an order which they had received from you under date 25th January 1782, and which, they thought, put it out of their power to grant passages to these officers at the Company's expence. Upon the perusal of the order we found that it applied only to four officers who had gone home of their own accord and for their own occasions, but whose passages had been paid for by the Government at Madras, which appearing to be a very different case from that of officers sent to Europe upon duty, and by orders from authority we explained our opinion of it and repeated our request to the Government at Fort St. George. Those officers who being in this situation have been ordered passages by us upon your ships will be seen by the respective lists of passengers on each; we have left the amount to be paid to the captains on their arrival in England.

153. The President and members of the Board of Trade have been



obliged by the loss of their factory house and warehouses at Luckypore, which have been carried away by the river, to propose the erection of a new factory at a village in that part, called Patta  
24th March.

Hauta, some distance from the riverside. We have ordered a little quantity of ground to what they originally possessed in the former factory, to be allotted to them at this place in exchange for what remains of the old spot, and approved of their removing the factory to this situation, but recommended, in the present state of the public finances, that they should be satisfied with building a bungalow (or thatched building) for the habitation of their Chief, and [a] warehouse for the lodgment of their goods instead of a house and warehouses which they had estimated at 50,000 rupees.

154. On the same day the Board of Trade complained to us of the detriment which the investment at the Luckypore *aurung*, in particular, sustained from the number of private factories which had been established by European agents, who promoted a competition for goods, outbid the Company's prices and had caused considerable debasements of the manufactures. We ordered the Committee of Revenue immediately to require the evacuation of four of these factories, which they mentioned by name, and to require all the Europeans not being in the Company's service possessing the special licence of the Court of Directors or of this Government for their residence in the districts to retire from them, according to the clause enacted in the late Act of Parliament for such cases.

155. Proposals were made to us sometime ago by a Mr. Lennox, as you have been already informed, for furnishing a quantity of indigo for the Company's investment, which upon an idea that the encouragement of this manufacture since the trade of America has been lost to the mother country might be of great national advantage we  
20th February. recommended to the consideration of the Board of Trade. Their opinion was by no means unfavourable to it, and it appears by the reports of considerable brokers in London upon the quality of Mr. Prinsep's indigo sent home, and the improvements which it was so easily capable of, that it might be made a traffick of very profitable concern. We are restricted in your list of investment from sending home any more of this article, and indeed had not this restriction arrived our acceptance of the tender of Lucknow cloths compleated the appropriation of the balance of the investment loan, and left us no option to increase the quantity of indigo, a preference for which, in case of any such increase, we find by the proceedings of the Board of Trade, lately referred to us, was due to Mr. Prinsep by the promises which his  
4th March. exertions in the cultivation and improvement of that branch had exacted from them as the managers and protectors of the Company's commerce.

156. The Commercial Resident at Rungpore in consequence of a disappointment which he met with in securing all the October *bund* of



silk from the tardiness of his advances proposed to the Board of Trade  
 27th February. to compleat his contract by the delivery of an increased  
 proportion of the white silk, which they approved and  
 recommended to us, and we have assented to.

157. Information has been lately received from the Resident at  
 Malda that a body of Sinassies had assembled and were pillaging the  
 country in that neighbourhood. The districts in the  
 15th March. neighbourhood of Silburris have been almost annually  
 24th March. subjected to the casual depredations of Mujenoo  
 Shau and his followers, who are only to be checked or dispersed by a  
 proper military force. One complete regiment has therefore been ordered  
 upon this service from the nearest military station.

158. The free merchants<sup>3</sup> and mariners of this town and port having  
 proposed to us sundry regulations which they thought it necessary to  
 recommend for the care and certainty of manning the ships with fit  
 seamen and *lascars*, in which the greatest difficulties and distress had  
 sometimes, but particularly of late, been experienced, we caused them to  
 be drawn up in the form of a bye law, which the Company's Attorney has  
 been instructed to register and publish with the appro-  
 3rd March. bation of the Supreme Court as the law directs. For  
 the particulars of this bye law, we beg leave to refer you  
 to the plan which is entered on our consultation noted in the margin.

159. By the compromise made with Hartwell Smith for the value of  
 the small arms, bought by him at the Company's sale and lost with the  
 boat which contained them while under stoppage at the custom house,  
 6th March. we have been obliged to pay him the sum of *sicca*  
 rupees 11,371-10-9; which by the vouchers and evi-  
 dence produced it appeared he had a just claim to.

160. A plan has been proposed and generally agreed to by the  
 officers of the army, under whose authority and approbation it comes  
 recommended to us by a committee of them, for establishing a main-  
 tenance and future provision for the orphans of officers who may die in  
 the Company's service by the means of a fund to be raised by stoppages  
 from the pay of every officer and surgeon from the rank of major down-  
 wards. In compliance with his request we have ordered the Paymaster  
 General to cause the above stoppages to be made from the pay of every  
 officer of that description who shall voluntarily consent to it, to receive  
 the accounts of money collected by the subordinate paymasters, and to  
 account himself with the managers of the fund for the amount quarterly.  
 For the rest we refer you to the plan itself and to the  
 Consultation 13th March. arguments which have been adduced in favour of it,  
 as they stand recorded in our proceedings. A printed  
 copy of the former makes a number in the packet.

161. The respect which we bear to so valuable a part of your service

induced us to refer this subject to your consideration, but without offering any opinion upon it, which we hope you will think unnecessary as your judgement upon it will not require the aid of any local knowledge.

162. The fort of Buxar from its natural and improved state being a place of some strength, and proper from its situation to furnish the necessary detachments for enforcing the collections and preserving the peace of the contiguous parts of the frontier of Bahar and the Zemindary of Raja Mahipnarain, we have made some additions to the command at that station from the cantonments at Dinapore, and  
 3rd March. ordered a small depot of provisions to be constantly kept up in the garrison.

163. Major Thomas Nichol, who was restored by you to the Company's service, has addressed us on the subject of his rank, which in consequence of the general amnesty you were pleased to  
 3rd March. pass on the conduct of the officers concerned in the resignation of 1766, of whom he was one, he thought should be equal to his progress in the regular rise of the service from his original place in it before that event. As the rank which he now possesses is held by virtue of your authority we have referred him for any further claim which he may have to your decision.

164. We likewise take the liberty to request your determination upon the memorial of Mr. John Stormonth, a Surgeon in your service, which was formerly referred to you in our General Letter noted in the margin, but to which we have hitherto received no reply. Mr. Stormonth has lately renewed his petition, and we have the honor to transmit you a copy of his letter.

165. Mr. Hare the late Sheriff having received our orders to repair the *harronbarry* or house of correction in Calcutta at the same time  
 15th November. when we authorized him to correct a proper prison wall round the new jail reported to us the decayed state of the buildings and wall which required such a thorough repair that he estimated its expence at 25,000 rupees. At the same time he proposed the erection of a new *harronbarry* in the stile of the new jail and adjoining to it, by which a nuisance would be removed from the centre of the town and a more durable accommodation established in its room. As he offered to complete this building for the amount required to repair the old one, and to receive this sum in Company's interest notes, provided also that the ground of the old jail and the old *harronbarry* should be given up to him, which upon a valuation made by the Committee of Revenue was reported at 150 rupees per *cotta*, to be worth  
 17th February. *sicca* rupees 21,600, and this proposal appearing to the Governor General to be an eligible one we were inclined to agree to it. But understanding Mr. Hare had conceived an intention of going to Europe, which appeared to us a material obstacle against entering into a contract with him, he prevailed on Mr. Prinsep

to adopt his proposals and to execute the work on his account, we have therefore accepted the last offer and concluded an agreement accordingly.

166. The Governor General begs to remark that he knew nothing of this proposal, which was received during his illness, until some months after it had been made known to the other members of the Board, nor until he had conceived, from a reference made of it to the Committee, that it had received their acquiescence. The opinions of the different members of the Board on this business are recorded in Consultations 14th January and 17th February last.

167. Mr. Abraham Leslie late Surgeon to the factory at Canton has presented a memorial to us, complaining against oppressions which he suffered in a long and unmerited imprisonment from the Portuguese Government at Macao, and praying for our intereference to obtain him redress. As it appeared, from his own state of the case, that his confinement at Macao was produced by a violent and unjustifiable conduct on his part towards the Chinese at Canton, and the consequent necessity of removing him from that part, in conformity to a requisition of the mandarins, we did not think it proper to give any countenance or support to his complaint.

168. Mr. Leslie likewise produced to us the most favourable certificates and vouchers of his qualifications and conduct as a surgeon at Canton from the supercargoes and others, and petitioned to be admitted into the service here as youngest surgeon upon the establishment; but had we been otherwise inclined to it your order concerning him to the supercargoes prevented our receiving him in any capacity.

169. Messrs. Uptoff, Broughton, Crow and Fawcett, writers on the Bombay establishment, brought here by the ship *Earl of Chesterfield* and since employed by our order in the Secretary's office have presented us a petition to your Honourable Court praying, for the reasons therein alleged, to be removed to the Bengal establishment and admitted upon the list after the Honourable Frederick Fitzroy who is youngest now upon it. The exemplary diligence and assiduity shewn by these gentlemen in the occupations assigned them, and the very favorable report made to us of their conduct in office induces us not only to forward their petition to you but to second it with our recommendation.

170. Mr. William George Palmer, son of Major Palmer of this establishment, who was appointed by you to be a cadet at Fort St. George has delivered a petition to the Governor General assuring him that when he left London he understood his nomination was for this Presidency, which on account of his father's situation had been the object of his solicitation, but when his certificate was enclosed to him at Portsmouth

too late to be returned it contained an appointment to Fort St. George. He therefore intreated to obtain the alteration which he wished. His letter was laid before us by the Governor General  
 20th March. with a recommendation of it; we have accordingly admitted him at the foot of your list for the season (1781) subject to your approbation, and we request you will confirm this appointment.

171. Mr. Thomas Lithan late a Surgeon on this establishment has obtained our permission to resign the service in order  
 10th February. to return to England.

172. Mr. Francis Baugh late a covenanted servant here has likewise obtained our permission to resign the service and to proceed to England  
 20th March. in the *Worcester* for the benefit of his health. He has hitherto proved himself an industrious servant, and we recommend him for his reappointment whenever the state of his health shall admit of it.

173. Captain Lieutenant Benjamin Doxat of artillery has likewise been obliged by ill health to resign the service  
 13th March. in order to take his passage for England on board the *Resolution*.

174. Captain Stuart Cumine having been invalided likewise takes his passage on the *Resolution*, and is possessed of  
 20th March. the proper certificates to entitle him to the benefit of the Military Fund.

175. Mr. John Shaw an Assistant Surgeon on this establishment has been allowed to embark as Surgeon on board the *Resolution*, and to return without prejudice to his rank, but not to draw any pay or allowances during his absence.

176. The *Worcester* being also in want of a surgeon we have permitted Mr. Thomas Skarrow to proceed as Surgeon of this ship on the same conditions.

177. Mr. William Perrie, whom you have appointed a junior merchant upon this establishment, has presented a letter to us containing a representation of the circumstances which attended his nomination, and having grounded expectations on his original claim for saving the Company's books from a fire at Patna, when a great reward was offered for that purpose, in which he seems to have suffered disappointment, we beg leave to enclose a copy of his letter for your information.

178. Mr. Robert Palk, the second member of your Board of Trade, has lately suffered such severe attacks of illness as to make it dangerous for him to remain long in this place. He has therefore determined to embark for England on the *Surprize*, and we have granted him leave to proceed accordingly.



179. As the very precarious state of Mr. Palk's health indispensably required a medical attendance, and there was no surgeon in the complement of the *Surprize*, an appointment which Colonel Watson positively refused to make at his own expence, we were induced from the consideration of Mr. Palk's long services to the Company to appoint an assistant surgeon from your establishment here to attend him on the voyage, with orders to return within a reasonable time to his duty. Mr. Adam Burt has been accordingly sent on this duty.

180. Major John MacGowan has presented a certificate of his bad state of health, and obtained our permission to resign the Company's service and take his passage on board the *Surprize* in order to proceed to England for his recovery. He has produced to us the most honourable testimony from Sir Eyre Coote of his good conduct and services in the late campaign with the General in the Carnatic.

181. Lieutenant Nicholas Danford has also been permitted to resign the Company's service that he may return to England.

182. In consequence of a representation, which we have received, that the three copies of a set of bills of exchange which we had granted on the 2nd of May 1781, in consequence of your orders, in favor of Mrs. Elizabeth Batchelor had by accident been lost we have granted 4th, 5th and 6th copies of the same set; and as the loss appears to have been entirely from mischance and not from any neglect in the parties, we have agreed to the payment of interest for the difference of time, upon receiving an indemnification against the presentation of the original bills.

183. We have just received a memorial from Mr. Robert Samuel Perreau, a factor in your service at Fort Marlborough, representing that the continued ill health which he suffered during his residence there and which would probably be fatal obliges him to quit that climate entirely; and having been employed, since his arrival here, in the public offices under the Secretary and Military Paymaster General, to whom he appeals for testimonies of his assiduity, he intreats your indulgence to be removed to this establishment with any rank which you may be pleased to assign him. We enclose a copy of his memorial, and beg leave to refer it to your notice.

#### *Board of Inspection*

184. Since we last had the honor to address you by the *Lively* packet, we have proceeded minutely to examine the public offices, regulate their expences and fix establishments for each, and it gives us pleasure to observe that in the execution of this undertaking we have not found that field for reduction which we at first supposed. And though we have not yet gone completely through the different offices at the Presidency, nor finally finished them that have already been before us, yet it is our intention to preserve in this necessary work and to go a second time over each



establishment; and, in general, we beg you may confide in the anxious endeavours of this Government for reducing every unnecessary branch of expence, which we find is not so much to be effected by retrenchment from the present establishments in the civil department, as by adopting a regular plan for the payment of all fixed and contingent charges. And for this purpose we have directed, in order to enforce a rigid attention to the general system of economy and to guard against contingencies of every kind, that all authorized charges be drawn in the form and order prescribed by us in the establishments as they are published, from which no deviations whatever will be allowed to take place. And that we may effectually prevent it we have positively ordered that all contingent charges shall be, in like manner, drawn separately and not admitted without a previous application for them to this Board accompanied by the reasons assigned for incurring the expence, except such as in their nature will not admit of the delay of reference, or are required by very urgent necessity, of which we will judge and admit or reject them as we are satisfied with the reasons alleged in support of them, or otherwise. And we have thought proper, the better to enable us to carry this work which we have so much at heart into execution, to annex the examination of the established and contingent charges to the office of Accomptant General, under the direction of the Board of Inspection, and who, from his long experience and intimate knowledge with every branch of accounts in this service, is we think the best calculated for considering this business.

185. We have informed him that all accounts of established charges in the General Department shall be audited and passed by him and that the heads of the offices at the Presidency who have occasion for supplies of cash from the treasury are to make their monthly application for the same to him, in the manner that they did formerly to the Comptroller of Offices, and he is to examine their estimates, and report upon them officially to the Board of Inspection, who will furnish them with orders upon the treasury for the sums respectively allowed to be advanced. And in order to preclude the Accomptant General from receiving personal solicitations from the officers of Government, relative to the audit of their accounts, we have agreed that he shall be sworn to the faithful execution of the trust reposed in him, and we flatter ourselves, by enforcing a strict attention to these regulations, we shall produce very considerable savings to the Company, after we have completed our examination of the establishments, for which a few offices now only remain to be examined, when [*sic*] a more explicit detail and the necessary statements shall be transmitted for your information.

186. The state of our treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	18,393	1	9
Khalsah	...	19,734	7	11

38,117 9 8 [*sic*]

## Bills receivable

General Treasury <i>sicca</i> rupees	.....	
Khalsah <i>sicca</i> rupees 6,449	... 7,480 13 6	
	<hr/>	7,480 13 6

## Mint

General Treasury ...	... 18,426 15 0	
Khalsah ...	... ..	
	<hr/>	18,426 15 0

## Unsorted treasure

Valued at 10 per cent better than Current rupees	.....
	<hr/>
	Current rupees 64,025 6 2

[Fort William,  
the 5th April 1783.]

[We have the honor to be etc.]

## ENCLOSURE

(*Vide paragraph 39*)

Advertisement forbidding British subjects from trading or lending  
money to foreigners.

Fort William 3rd March 1783.

Ordered the following advertisement be published.

Whereas it is enacted by the 29th section of the Act of the 21st of His Present Majesty, for establishing an agreement between the public and the Company. That the Company's servants, and other British subjects resident in India, are prohibited from lending money to foreign companys, or foreign European merchants, and from purchasing goods on their accounts, and from being concerned in such transactions and from giving credit by bills of exchange on persons in Europe."

Notice is hereby given that the Honourable the Court of Directors are determined to prosecute any persons who shall offend against this law, besides inflicting such punishment upon them as may be within their own power.

The Honourable the Governor General and Council having received directions from the Court of Directors to give public notice thereof, "And

if they shall discover any persons in the Company's service being concerned in such transactions, forthwith to suspend them and if such discovery shall fall on licensed traders to declare their licences void, to withdraw the Company's protection from them, and to require them to return to England", do hereby publish the same for the information of all whom it may concern and for the like purpose the following extract from the commands of the Court of Directors, dated the 5th of January 1782 is added.

"Paragraph 77. This is a business of so much importance to the Company that we must direct you will use your utmost exertions therein. It is not probable that transactions of this kind will be avowed and carried on in an open manner wherefore it may be right to encourage those who have knowledge thereof to give information. To this end we direct that you will cause it to be made known that every person who shall discover any offender or offenders against this Act, so that he or they may be prosecuted thereon, will merit our favour and future protection and may be assured of promotion in our service."

## 9

## LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1783

*The problem of admiralty jurisdiction in Bengal—Captain McClary's case.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

*Separate Letter*

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The purport of this separate address is to draw your attention to the state of the admiralty jurisdiction in this settlement, the defects of which we have lately experienced, having had complaints brought before us of the most enormous nature, for which neither our power or those of the Supreme Court could afford the proper redress.

2. Captain John Maclary, commanding the ship *Dodalay* bound for China, obtained from this Government in January 1780 a letter

of licence to cruize against the ships belonging to the kingdoms of France or Spain. On the 20th of May 1781 Captain Maclary being himself at Macao sent out his ship to seize a sloop bound from that port to Manilla, on the supposition of her being Spanish property. It appears that he acquainted the Governor of Macao with his intention to bring her back to that harbour that she might undergo his examination. Captain Maclary was nevertheless taken up by the Portuguese Government, and, after suffering a rigorous confinement, was compelled to give an order to his officer for the release of the sloop. The order was produced to the officer on board the *Dodalay*, who immediately bore down towards the sloop for the purpose of carrying it into effect, but before it could be accomplished a violent gale of wind came on and the sloop was lost. Captain Maclary was therefore retained in prison at Macao until the Government had exacted from him the value of 70,000 dollars, at which the sloop and her cargo were estimated, and then released.

3. Captain Maclary sailed from Canton in the *Dodalay* on the 16th of December 1781, and meeting with two Portuguese ships bound to Batavia in the streights of Banca, named the *Saint Antonio Novo* and the *Santa Maria Mayor* he captured them both and brought them into this river, but landed the commanders and officers at some of the ports to the eastward.

4. Several Portuguese supercargoes and captains of ships who happened to be at Calcutta at the time of Captain Maclary's arrival joined in a formal representation against him, and as neither of the captains or the officers of the captured ships were arrived the memorialists solicited an "interference to prevent any interruption to that free trade and harmony which subsisted between the English and Portuguese."

5. On the receipt of this memorial which was presented by the supercargoes to the Governor General, he assured them of every legal assistance and support which this Government could give to put the charge against Captain Maclary into a regular cause of trial and to obtain redress for the injury complained of; but informed them that the nature of our laws were such as to render it absolutely necessary that the allegations should be delivered on oath and formal evidence of the facts exhibited before any prosecution could be carried on with success. We likewise repeated this answer with an offer of the assistance of the Company's law officers if any one of the petitioners would undertake to prosecute the claims and to collect the witnesses necessary for that purpose, but this they all declined.

6. In the month of February last we received letters from the Government of Macao complaining of the piracies committed by Captain Maclary and desiring retribution for them. The captains or owners of the captured ships likewise arrived here by the same opportunity and addressed us for our assistance in the recovery of their property. We consequently ordered the Company's law officers to grant them every information and aid in their power for commencing prosecutions and to

carry on the suits on their account. Messrs. De Barros and De Roza, who had come here to sue for their property in the *Saint Antonio* and her cargo at the time of her capture, preferred submitting their claims to arbitration. Messrs. Francisco Xavier De Castro, Agostino Antonio Spada &ca. having produced their evidence to the Company's Attorney a suit was accordingly instituted by him.

7. Their ship had been sold to Messrs. Petrie Keble and Pasley by Captain Maclary for 1,10,000 *sicca* rupees, against whom they brought an action of trover and recovered that sum in damages. They have since brought an action against Captain Maclary for special damages. The causes were, by order of the Governor General and Council, carried on by the Company's Attorney. Justice was speedily done them in their first action in the Supreme Court. They arrived in Calcutta in February last, and obtained judgment on the fifteenth day of March; the other action was commenced later and will be tried in the next term.

8. Though they may procure civil reparation for their private losses they cannot here obtain (that which was one of their main purposes of coming from so great a distance as Macao's) public justice.

9. In July last a complaint having been made to the Governor General and Council that several piracies and murders had been committed by Captain John Maclary and Mr. John O'Donnell in the Streights of Malaca, the Council was convened, and the Chief Justice desired to assist us in examining into them. Being of opinion that the charge was not made out against Captain Maclary we discharged him. But we thought that Mr. O'Donnell ought to be put on his trial. This gave occasion to enquire into the powers vested either in the Governor General and Council or the Supreme Court relative to crimes committed on the high seas, and it being the opinion both of us and of the Chief Justice that there was no power in either to try him the witnesses were bound over to appear, and the prisoner was sent to Madrass to be tried at an admiralty court to be there held, where it was understood there was an existing admiralty commission. The event was that the principal witness did not appear and the prisoner was acquitted.

10. After stating these facts it is needless to observe how much both justice and the credit of your first settlement in India are interested that powers should be placed in some part of this Government capable of giving effectual redress in crimes of this nature.

11. By referring prosecutors to another settlement they suffer much vexation, justice is certainly impeded and most probably defeated. Strangers can with difficulty conceive that their not obtaining justice in the principal seat of the English empire in India is caused by a defect of power; they can hardly believe that the inferior settlement has that jurisdiction which the principal has not; they must naturally attribute it to want of inclination to do justice to foreigners against the subjects of this



Government. A more illiberal and inhuman opprobrium cannot be incurred by any nation or any Government.

12. These, we have no doubt, would be sufficient reasons to induce you to make the proper applications for necessary charters or commissions to punish these crimes, though there had been no precedent for it, but in fact before the alterations in this Government made by the Act past in the 13th of His Majesty's reign there were full and ample powers for trying such causes, and it is we conceive by omission or mistake they were not continued in the present Government or that a competent jurisdiction in the Supreme Court was not established in its stead.

13. To evince this it will be proper to state what that tribunal was, how it has been vacated and from what causes the admiralty jurisdiction in the Supreme Court has proved ineffective.

14. A commission (on the petition of the East India Company) bearing date the 12th of November, 31st of George 2nd, was granted by "His Late Majesty to his admirals etc., and also to John Stackhouse, Hugh Barker, Thomas Gradyl, Humphry Cole, John Bowket, Edward Corbert, Francis Russel and Richard Eyre and the President and Council of Fort William for the time being, the President to be of the quorum, for hearing etc., in any place on sea or at land at Fort William all piracies, felonies and robberies committed etc., on the sea, within any haven, river, creek or place where the admirals etc., have power within the East Indies or the countries and parts of Asia and Africa, and in the islands, ports, havens, cities, creeks, towns and places of Asia, Africa and America or any of them beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan within the limits of trade granted to the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies". This commission is understood to be abrogated by the new constitution given by the 13th of His Present Majesty to this Government.

15. We have stated the local extent of this commission that it may be compared with that of the Supreme Court which by the charter which erects it establishes it to be "a Court of Admiralty for the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa and all other territories and islands adjacent thereunto and which now are or ought to be dependant thereupon", and after authorizing it to take cognizance of all causes civil and maritime etc., between merchants, owners and proprietors of ships and vessels employed or used within the jurisdiction aforesaid or between others contracted "in, upon or by the sea or publick rivers or ports, creeks, harbours and places overflowed by the ebbing and flowing of the sea etc.", it proceeds to give a criminal jurisdiction to try by jury all treasons and murders perpetrated, committed on the high seas within the limits and jurisdiction aforesaid, with this additional restriction: provided always that "the several powers and authorities hereby to proceed in maritime causes and according to the laws of the admiralty shall extend and be construed to extend only to the subjects of us, our heirs or successors who shall reside in the kingdom or provinces of Bengal, Bahar or Orissa or

some of them, and to persons who shall when the cause of suit or complaint shall have arisen have been employed by or shall then have been directly or indirectly in the service of the said United Company or of any of our subjects."

16. The former commission was ample as to criminal matters, the jurisdiction extended through the Company's limits of trade and over all persons whomsoever. The restriction on the powers of the Supreme Court in maritime causes both civil and criminal being as to locality "in and for the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa and all other territories and islands adjacent thereunto and which now are or ought to be dependent thereupon, and in, upon or by the sea or public rivers or ports, creeks, harbours and places overflowed by the ebbing and flowing of the sea etc., and as to persons only to the subjects of us, our heirs or successors who shall reside in the kingdoms or provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa or some of them and to persons who shall when the cause of suit or complaint shall have arisen, have been employed by or shall then have been directly or indirectly in the service of the said United Company, or any of our subjects", its powers are so much abridged that there are rarely any cases to which they can be applied.

17. After having recommended the procuring of powers regarding matters to which remedies have been formerly applied we are led to submit it to your consideration whether it may not be proper that the admiralty jurisdiction here should be further amplified, we mean with regard to condemnation of lawful prizes made in time of war. No court in India is at present competent to that purpose, and the great risk, inconvenience and loss which must accrue to captors by being put to the necessity of conveying their prizes taken in these seas to Great Britain before they can obtain a lawful property in them is obvious; but cases which have happened since the commencement of the present wars with France and Spain have brought this matter more directly to our attention. The one relative to a Spanish ship taken by the *Nancy*, one of the Company's armed vessels commanded by Captain Heffernan. In 1778 he carried her into Madras where Admiral Sir Edward Hughes then lay with His Majesty's fleet who claimed and seized the prize; the Admiral applied to the Presidency of Madrass for the purposes of having her condemned. That Presidency declining to act for want of legal powers Sir Edward wrote to the Chief Justice here for the same purpose, who informed him that no such power was vested in the Supreme Court. The other was the case of the *Hinchinbrooke* taken at St. Iago by a French man of war and retaken by the *Jupiter* man of war. She was suffered to proceed on her voyage to India but agents were put on board her by Commodore Johnstone, part of whose fleet the *Jupiter* was, for the purpose of prosecuting the *Hinchinbrooke* to condemnation. But on a regular application to the Supreme Court here by petition for that purpose the judges were unanimously of opinion that they had no powers to grant the prayer of it.

18. This matter was afterwards compromised. We need not point out to you what would have been the detriment to your interests if the

Commodore had either not permitted the *Hinchinbrooke* to proceed on her voyage, or after her arrival here had not consented to the compromise.

19. In this latter case the extension of the jurisdiction of any admiralty court here to the limits of the Company's trade would not be sufficient, for the capture and recapture were on the other side [of] the Cape of Good Hope, which makes us take the liberty to suggest the propriety of applying for an act of Parliament that the ships belonging to the East India Company who shall be retaken on an outward voyage to India shall on giving proper securities be allowed by the recaptors to proceed to the places of their destination, and that authority be given to a court of admiralty in India to proceed to the condemnation of such ships wheresoever taken or retaken.

Fort William,  
5th April 1783.

We have the honour to be etc.

10

LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1783

*Free trade in raw silk—the loss of the Eagle.*

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] The detention of the *Surprize* packet, by violent contrary winds which have prevailed for some days past, affords us an opportunity of writing further to you by this conveyance.

[2] We have the pleasure to enclose a copy of our proceedings in Consultation of yesterday, concerning the provision of an investment for the ensuing year, to which we beg leave to refer you for a state of the goods remaining in the export warehouse at the end of last month, and of those expected to be received from the *aurungs* by the end of February 1784.

[3] You will also find by our proceedings that we have resolved to lay open the trade in raw silk, conformably to your orders, and to allow individuals to adventure their property in this article to England on your chartered ships, which shall be dispatched from hence after those of the

last September fleet, which left England in company with the *Greyhound* packet and are daily expected to arrive in India, shall have sailed, in such proportions on each ship as shall be hereafter determined. By fixing this period we have allowed sufficient time for shipping off all the Company's silk and other articles of the present year's investment, and for enabling individuals to prepare such quantities as they may be inclined to manufacture and transport on their own accounts.

[4] For the provision of the Company's investment, entirely excluding the article of raw silk, we have agreed to receive a loan of fifty lacks of current rupees for bills to be drawn upon you payable at 365 days after sight with an option to extend the period of payment one, two or three years longer as you shall find convenient, allowing an interest of 5 per cent per annum after the expiration of the original term until the bills shall be discharged. To avoid the trouble and delay of calculating the interest upon each sum which we may receive in part of this loan before the bills are granted, as was practised on the former occasion when we drue [drew] at 2s. per current rupee, we have now fixed the exchange at 2s. 1d.

[5] We are much concerned to inform you that the *Worcester*, which was at anchor with the other outward bound ships off Cock's Island, parted her cable in a late storm and ran foul of the *Resolution*, by which both ships were considerably damaged. The *Worcester* is returned to Culpee and Captain Cook having represented her as unfit to proceed immediately upon her destination, in conformity to the sailing orders which had been issued, we have discharged her from the Company's service. Captain Pointing is gone down to examine the state of his ship, the *Resolution*, and we have no doubt but she also will be obliged to wait till the beginning of the next fair season.

[6] The stormy weather of late has been so uncommonly violent that all the shipping in the river suffered by it considerably, and we are sorry to acquaint you that the *Eagle*, one of the vessels of your Bombay Marine, which was lying opposite to this town when the first severe gale came on foundered at her moorings and was totally lost. An officer and several persons on board at the time unfortunately perished.

Fort William,  
the 16th April 1783.

We have the honour to be,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings/Edwd. Wheler/  
John Macpherson/John Stables.

Received per *Surprize* 20th September 1783.



## LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1783

*French ships in the Bay of Bengal—fixation of pensions for pilots—Captain Forrest to survey the Andamans—Court's orders regarding removal of non-covenanted servants from Company's service carried out with some exceptions—office of the Superintendent of Police, Calcutta, continued—ships captured by the Spanish fleet—difficulty of keeping records without the help of monthly writers—licences of passengers on Company's ships to be examined—complaints against General Stuart—Captain Call preparing an Atlas of India—silk to form an item of investment again—reasons why requisite advance was not made to the Board of Trade—Portuguese and Danes permitted to export saltpetre to Europe—Bengal Council's plan for supplying remittances to the Deccan through the banking houses of Gopal Das opposed at first by the Councils of Fort St. George and Massulipatam—explanation for withholding from Madras Council remittance of ten lakhs of rupees—protest against Admiral Hughes for refusing supplies provided by the Board's Agent—Mr. Tirretta to erect a public market at Calcutta—Nawab Muhammad Riza Khan's pension increased—apprehensions of famine in North India—representation from the Company's officers for equality in rank with the King's officers—allotment of ground for orphanage building—publication of Gladwin's translation of the Ain-i-Akbari—Bengal Government's efforts to ensure equal distribution of grain to provinces affected by famine.*

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have not had an opportunity of addressing you since the dispatch of the *Surprize* packet in April last; by that conveyance we wrote to you under dates the 5th, 7th and 16th of April, duplicates of which letters are enclosed.

2. The necessity for your receiving constant and regular advices of the transactions of your Governments in India made us view this interval with regret; we could have no reliance on the conveyance by your chartered ships, so many of which, even after sailing out of the river, had been obliged to put back or had been by the situation of the French cruizers in the Bay prevented from sailing altogether, and in either case had disappointed us of sending the communications intended for you. Besides, the present is not the proper season for dispatching them with valuable cargoes, being contrary to charterparty. We therefore agreed not long ago to take up the *Britannia*, a swift-sailing coppered snow, for the



purpose of transmitting our proceedings to you. This vessel was a French prize and consequently not prohibited, if any prohibitory law to this effect does exist, from carrying merchandize into England on the Company's account; and being offered to us on freight for the transportation of 450 tons of fine goods we thought this the most eligible method of engaging her, as the early arrival of such a cargo might have afforded you a seasonable supply and would have yielded some return for the charges of the vessel. The Board of Trade were desired to prepare a cargo for her accordingly, but they remonstrated to us against lading any part of your investment on the *Britannia*, as so many of your chartered ships were expected to arrive in the course of the season. We therefore annulled our agreement and ordered a vessel, belonging to the pilot service, to be coppered and prepared for carrying dispatches instead of the *Britannia*.

3. This will accordingly be conveyed to you by the *Nurbudda*, which we have placed under the command of Captain Rattray. late of the *Duke of Athol*. The unfortunate fate of the *Duke of Athol*, *Fairford* and *Duke of Kingston*, which have all been destroyed at different times by fire, we presume you will have heard the particulars of from the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay, where or near to which the accidents happened.

4. We have thought it advisable to detain all the Company's chartered ships here, except the *Resolution*, till the period fixed by charter-party for their leaving this river, that is the 10th November next, when we hope to dispatch to you the *Worcester*, *Rodney*, *Busbridge* and *Winterton*, and shortly after the *Ceres*, *Talbot*, *Belmont*, *Lord Macartney*, *Vansittart*, *Barwell*, *Fox*, *Atlas*, *Pigot* and *Oxford*, which have lately arrived from Madrass, the Board of Trade having, as they inform us, goods now in their warehouse and expected in the course of the season sufficient for the cargoes of 11 ships, exclusive of the Dutch prize goods which alone form more than a common cargo and are valued at current rupees 18,98,288-6-3.

5. The President and Council at Fort St. George have desired that the *Busbridge* may receive only half a cargo from this place, and be sent to them to complete her lading, which we shall accordingly attend to.

6. The *Worcester*, *Resolution*, *Norfolk* and *Hinchinbrooke* were laden and ready to sail for England in February last, as our letters of that date will have informed you, but from the great risk of sending them out at that time, the French fleet being dispersed over the Bay to intercept our trade, and some of their cruizers being actually stationed at the mouth of the river we resolved to detain those ships, loaded as they were, till a safe period should occur for their departure. And Captain Cooke protested, in the usual form, against our detention of him beyond the charter-party season. During this interval a great desertion of the seamen took place from these ships, and when their dispatches and sailing orders were

delivered, on the 26th of March, they were not in a condition to depart. The southerly monsoon about that time setting in with violence they broke from their anchors, and at different times they all received damage, which rendered them incapable of proceeding immediately to Europe, and obliged us to discharge them from the service. The *Worcester* and *Resolution* were repaired without taking out their cargoes, but the *Norfolk* and *Hinchinbrooke* have been unladen and brought up to town. The latter is so much injured, by having been hauled on shore, that it is impossible for her at present to make the voyage to England. Captain Maxwell has determined to carry her to Bombay in hopes of repairing her at that place, and perhaps Captain Bonham may be obliged to pursue the same measure with the *Norfolk*. Their cargoes have been received into store by the Board of Trade, and will be laden on other ships.

7. Captain Poynting, late commander of the *Resolution*, died about a month ago and is succeeded in command by his chief officer Mr. Tolme, who has been sworn into that trust; and having undertaken to carry the ship out at this season we have thought it preferable to attempt her dispatch immediately, and not to detain her any longer in the river, with a cargo on board which is liable to damage and lies at considerable risk.

8. Mr. John Moffat declaring himself brother to the husband and most considerable owner of the *Resolution* applied to us for the command of the ship on Captain Poynting's death, and to strengthen his claim urged that he had been long an officer in your service, and that Mr. Tolme, the 1st officer, had not belonged originally to the ship, but had been appointed by Captain Poynting in this country. Previous however to the receipt of this letter we had appointed Captain Tolme, whom we found the next for succession, to the command, and indeed we should not have thought it right to set him aside, in favour of any one, without a proof of demerit or incapacity.

9. We have been under the necessity of supplying the ships which are here with several anchors and cables from your stores. The captains' receipts for them will be forwarded in the dispatch from the Naval Store-keeper's Office, enclosed in this packet. The articles sent out by you were charged with the usual premium and those which had been received in payment from Mr. Lacam or purchased in this country were delivered at prime cost.

10. Lady Coote, who is now at Fort St. George, having engaged a passage to England on board the *Belmont* we have resolved, in compliance with her private request, to lade that ship and to return her to Madras, early in December to accommodate her ladyship, thinking this the least compliment we could pay to the wishes and desire of a person in everyway so much entitled to our respect and attention,

11. The China ships, which were sent here this season by the President and Council at Fort St. George to receive and carry supplies of rice to that Presidency, were all dispatched as soon as they could be laden, and in time, as it was hoped, to deliver their cargoes and pursue their voyages to China. But the *Kent*, *Latham* and *Chesterfield* were obliged, by stress of weather or leaks, to return; and we immediately wrote to the President and Council at Fort St. George desiring them to send other ships to supply their places that the supercargoes at Canton might suffer no disappointment from their non-arrival. We understand that the *General Coote*, *Montague* and *Francis* have been dispatched accordingly. The *Kent* and *Latham* afterwards attempted again and sailed for Madras, but the *Chesterfield* being too leaky to proceed was brought up to town and unloaded. We in consequence discharged her from the service, but Captain Boswell having lately reported her to be fit to proceed to Bombay according to her original destination, we have ordered her to be laden with rice for the garrison at Mangalore, and with the remainder of the stores which are to be conveyed to the Presidency of Bombay.

12. Mr. James Dewar, late Purser of the *Dartmouth* Indiaman which was lost on the island of Car Nicobar, having brought us the intelligence of that unhappy event with a letter from the captain and one of the passengers expressive of the great activity and successful exertions which he had shewn in saving the lives and providing for the relief of the people on board even at the risk of his own person, and the total neglect of his own property which was consequently lost, we were induced to grant him an allowance of 200 rupees per month for his subsistence, during the time he might be necessitated to reside here, and 1000 rupees for the payment of his passage to England. The conduct of Mr. Dewar in this affair appears to have been so exemplary and meritorious that we think it a justice due to recommend him to your notice.

13. Captain Maxwell, commander of the *Hinchinbrooke*, applied to us some time since for a remission of the Company's duties on his private trade, urging the plea of its having been granted to other ships of the same season which had been more fortunate in making their passages to India, but your orders prohibiting such indulgence were before us and prevented our complying with his request.

14. An account of the Company's property on board the *Hinchinbrooke*, at the period of her recapture by Commodore Johnston's fleet, having been prepared by the proper officers and laid before us we have ordered a conditional Company's bond to be drawn out for 1/8th part of it, or current rupees 36,056-10-6, being the amount of salvage claimed by the recaptors. It bears date from the 17th June 1782, and is payable on the arrival of a formal and legal decree of the Court of Admiralty establishing their right to it, otherwise of no effect.

15. Captain Poynter, who came out from England last year in command of the *Trial* packet, having claimed from us in behalf of himself and officers a gratuity which, by an original letter from your Secretary produced to us, it appeared you had promised to them on their safe arrival in India, and understanding that in similar circumstances the supercargoes at China had granted to Captain Court of the *Fox* double the amount which had been advanced by you before the vessel left England, we took their example for our guidance, and allowed the same to Captain Poynter and to his officers.

16. With our last letters we forwarded to you a particular plan of the survey of the new channel at the entrance of the river Houghly, accompanied by Mr. Ritchie's remarks and directions for the navigation of it. We have since had this subject more at large grounded on Mr. Ritchie's information and his own experience of the various obstacles and difficulties which have attended the establishment of that navigation, has proposed a separate branch of the Marine Department for that exclusive purpose to be divided from the pilot service and placed under the direction of this marine officer. The subject is at present under consideration and we shall duly advise you of any plan which may be adopted in consequence.

17. We took into our immediate consideration an improvement which was proposed in regulating the charges of pilotage for ships coming into or going out of this river, and we resolved accordingly to annul the ancient custom of calculating the rates upon the burthen of the ships, with a limitation of them to a particular size. In lieu of which we directed that for the future the rates should be established according to a table published for that purpose, and calculated upon the draft of water, increasing in the amount according to the proportionate increase of depth, which appeared more equitable than the former mode, both for the merchant and the pilot. An excess is admitted on foreign ships to provide a fund for the widows and orphans of pilots.

18. Having, from time to time, been under the necessity of granting pensions to the pilots of this river, who from length of services or any sufficient causes were superannuated or otherwise disabled from further service, and no regular establishments having been fixed for this purpose, we have settled the amount of such pensions to be 75 rupees per month,  $2/3$  of their ordinary pay.

19. A proposal was made to us by Captain Thomas Forrest to undertake a survey of the Andaman Islands soon after his return from his former expedition. As we had no present employment for him at this place we agreed to accept of his services in that line and engaged a small vessel, which he had purchased for the purpose. He left the river in May last.



20. We have received the following letters from you by the ships of the March fleet.

General Letter dated	26th September	1782.
Do.	15th January	1873.
Separate do.	15th do.	do.
General Letter dated	23rd do.	do.
Do.	14th February	do.
Do.	28th do.	do.
Do.	1st March	do.
Do.	6th do.	do.
From your Secretary	25th January	do.
Do.	8th February	do.
Do.	15th do.	do.

We have also received your dispatches by the *Crocodile* frigate, dated 27th March and 1st April.

21. We beg leave to follow the same method of replying to these several letters which we adopted in our last, and shall therefore inform you of our proceedings and orders succinctly upon each paragraph.

*General Letter 26th September 1782*

22. We transmitted a copy of this paragraph to the Commissioners of Customs to be enforced by them, and wrote to the Admiral requesting that he would not allow any of His Majesty's ships to come to this port in such a situation as might be likely to involve our officers in disputes with the commanders of them, by the necessity of carrying your orders into execution.

23. We have notified this order to the Board of Trade for our own proceedings in the execution of your former commands, of which this is a repetition. We beg leave to refer you to our consultations noted in the margin, but to save you the trouble of turning to them we shall briefly recapitulate what has been done in this place.

24. As the persons whom you have ordered to be deprived of their appointments could not be removed until successors should be nominated to take charge of their offices and receive from them an account for their trusts, we immediately ordered lists to be formed, and laid before us, of all the persons not being covenanted servants of the Company who held appointments of any kind under this Presidency, and upon the receipt of the lists we resolved to remove Messrs. Day, Steele, Cobham, Chartres, Donaldson, Robertson, Wilkinson, Walker, Collie and Johnson from the offices of Paymasters and Deputy Paymasters to different corps of the army; and we appointed covenanted servants to succeed to such of their stations as by a new arrangement of this Department we thought it indispensably necessary to confirm.



25. Under the Salt Department we removed Messrs. Wood, Archdekin, Sealy and Worledge who had been Salt Agents, and appointed covenanted servants in their room. But in arranging this Department, as your prohibitory orders against the employment of any person out of the Company's covenanted service admitted of no exceptions, we thought it our duty to insert on our proceedings, and you will be informed from the Revenue Department, of our reasons for continuing the Deputy Salt Agents, though none of them were covenanted servants. Practical and habitual knowledge are so necessary in some situations to qualify persons on whom a particular trust depends for the execution of it that in the salt branch, and particularly before the principals had acquired any experience in it a removal of the deputies would have thrown the whole into confusion and produced a diminution of its revenue, which has already improved to an amount exceeding the net yearly produce of 50 lacks of rupees. Moreover the nature of the employment of Deputy Salt Agent and of some other offices under this Presidency appears to us to be such as it would be incompatible with the general duties of a Company's servant to accept, and would deprive them of the opportunities, which they ought to have, of qualifying themselves by progressive experience for more extensive employments in the revenue and other branches of the service.

26. The appointments in the Ordnance Department of Commissaries and Deputy Commissaries have been all annulled, and a rule established that such appointments in future shall only be held by the officers of artillery. The present conductors of artillery are nevertheless allowed to remain in their stations for the reason assigned in the conclusion of the preceding paragraph.

27. Among other appointments that of Mr. Crommelin our Resident at Goa came under consideration, but as you had been apprized of it so long ago that we expected your next advices would contain your special orders for annulling it if you disapproved of our having given it to this gentleman, and as from Mr. Crommelin's respectable character, from the station he has held, and his long services to the Company in India, we entertained a reasonable hope that you would so far swerve from the rule as to confirm him in a place for which he is peculiarly well qualified, we resolved to wait, some time at least, for your further orders upon this subject, and not to take any immediate measures for his sudden removal.

28. Neither did we think it within the scope of your intention to remove those professional men whom it was necessary to employ and whose places could not possibly be supplied by any of your covenanted servants; we particularly mean the Company's Attorney and other law officers admitted to practice in the Supreme Court and retained by the Company.

29. It also appeared consistent with your intention in the permission

given to Doctor Rowland Jackson to practice his profession in Bengal, which was notified to us in your letter of the 4th July 1777, that he should receive some appointment for his attendance on the Company's servants, which he originally did. As you were advised of this that he should continue to draw the salary assigned him in recompence for the same, and for the duties assigned him of attending the prisoners in the public jail we therefore passed over his appointment without alteration.

Consultation 29th  
May.

30. We removed Mr. John Ham from the office of Deputy Postmaster at Patna, and left the duty to be performed by one of the Company's servants at that station. All the other appointments of Deputy Postmaster were held by Company's servants excepting that at Culpee which, being neither an object nor situation for any Company's servant to be placed in, we were under the necessity of allowing it to continue as it was.

Consultation 29th  
May.

31. The offices of Surveyor of the town of Calcutta, of Clerk to the Commissioners of the Police and of Scavenger being held under special appointments made by a Bye-Law and independent of the Company's service, and their salaries being issued from the produce of the assignments on the town we did not think they came within the sense of your order or that we could be warranted by it in removing them.

Consultation 29th  
May.

32. The office of Superintendent of the Police of the town of Calcutta, being held by Mr. Thomas Motte, would also have come under the same difficulty had not the Bye-Law which constituted it received His Majesty's royal disallowance. In this state the subject of that appointment came under our consideration, it appeared necessary to publish the disallowance without further delay, but at the same time it was equally so to substitute some other plan of police for preserving the peace and good order of the town, which, as soon as the only check upon them were removed, would be exposed to the disturbance of every disorderly person who might be encouraged by the hopes of impunity to be riotous. We therefore directed the Advocate General to prepare a new rule, ordinance and regulation to be passed into a law with the approbation of the Supreme Court, and cautioned him to endeavor to divest it, as much as the nature and customs of this town would admit of it, from those legal objections which he might suppose had subsisted against the confirmation of the former. The disallowance was nevertheless published without further delay through the channel of the Company's Attorney, who moved the Court for that purpose.

33. Such a length of time having been suffered to elapse since the date and ever since the receipt of the disallowance before it was published we think it both becoming and necessary to account for this delay.

34. In your letter dated 5th July 1780, which arrived here by the *Lively* on the 27th April 1781, you advised us "that the Bye-Law had

received His Majesty's royal disallowance, that the warrant for disallowing the same was transmitted on the ship *Royal George* and attested copies thereof on the ships *Hillsborough* and *Mount Stewart*, and you promised by an early opportunity to state your particular objections to the said Bye-Law for our future guidance on that subject."

35. The above-named ships composed a part of the convoy which was captured by the Spanish fleet<sup>1</sup> in the month of August 1780. This prevented the arrival of His Majesty's warrant or the attested copies of it by either of the conveyances on which they were sent and for a long time afterwards; a duplicate of the warrant was transmitted by the *Chapman* which arrived here on the 13th September 1781.

36. No period was limited by Charter for the publication of His Majesty's disallowance of any Bye-Law, formed under the Act; we know not the objections against that which had been disapproved, and our expectation of instructions from you to guide us in framing another to supply its place which otherwise might be annulled on the same grounds induced us to wait for the information you had promised. We apprehend that the multiplicity of other affairs and the common hurry of the business before you prevented your recollection of it, and when we were persuaded of this we no longer hesitated to publish it without your instructions.

37. The plan and draft of a new bye-law having been prepared by the Advocate General in consequence of our orders, it was passed in Council and transmitted immediately to the Company's Attorney to be registered according to law, with the approbation of the Supreme Court, and published in the usual manner.

38. We have called for returns of all the covenanted servants and monthly writers employed in our different offices, with the allowances drawn by each, and shall proceed immediately to take into consideration your order respecting the dismissal of the latter. At the same time we must declare our opinion of the impossibility of keeping up all the voluminous records and accounts in the different offices of this Government, the immense labor of which you can in some degree judge of by the bulk of our dispatches from hence, without their assistance and by the means and endeavors of your covenanted servants only, were they even more numerous than they are and assiduously attentive to their duty. It will appear also by turning to the list of Company's servants that only very few of those who from their standing in the service could be employed in the public offices as assistants, and are arrived in Bengal, are without occupation; for this purpose we transmit you a complete list of the Company's servants with their several stations and employments corrected up to this time. We beg leave however to remark that similar lists were usually forwarded to you every year by the first ship and by the ship which carried the annual books and dispatches of this Government.

39. We beg leave to inform you that the ship *Veteran* has not, to our knowledge, been disposed of at this Presidency.  
Paragraph 10.

*Separate General Letter 15th January 1783*

40. The orders contained in the seven first paragraphs of this letter are fully replied to in the foregoing information and remarks relative to the appointments lately held by non-covenanted servants, and we beg leave further to add our full and sincere intention to carry into effect and adhere to the rules which you have prescribed, throughout this letter, for our observance, as far as it shall be practicable to conform to them.

*General Letter 15th January 1783*

41. The plan for a subscription investment, here alluded to, was first formed on the 10th April 1782, but failed in the execution. Copy of it with other documents referred to in the small letter of the 8th April accompanied it in larger packets overland, but were lost between Bussora and Aleppo.  
Paragraph 2.

42. These paragraphs have been sent to the Board of Trade with whom it will rest to pay attention to them.  
Paragraphs 3 to 7.

43. We have delivered a copy of this paragraph to the Board of Ordnance, who are particularly enjoined to see the certificates regularly sent in for the packet upon the dispatch of every ship.  
Paragraph 8.

44. With a view to carry this order into effect we have directed the Agent employed in unloading your ships to obtain lists of all passengers on board of each when they arrive, and to examine whether they are severally furnished with your licence, which he is to report to us with a list of their names; and they will be entered on our proceedings.  
Paragraph 10.

45. We have published a copy of this paragraph with a caution to those whom it may affect that they do not unwarily enter into connections which may make them liable to suffer in their fortunes from the execution of the order for sending them to England, as we are determined to enforce it in every instance which shall come to our knowledge.  
Paragraph 11.

46. Not being conscious that any prisoners of war have embarked at this place on the Company's ships for China we apprehend that this paragraph rather alludes to the other Presidencies than to Bengal, but the war being now over and all the French prisoners sent to Fort St. George, at the request of that Presidency, to be delivered up to the Marquis de Bussy or released, none will remain  
Paragraph 13.



here but the Dutch prisoners, and we only wait for the proper occasion and means to dispose of them also.

47. On the perusal of this paragraph we called for the index to our consultations for the last year, which was immediately produced. We referred to it particularly and must confess it appeared to us to be very full and formed upon a regular plan. We had not time to examine it minutely and therefore cannot speak with precision of its accuracy, but we understand from a representation which was made to us by our Secretary soon after the departure of the *Surprise* packet, that it was impossible to send home indexes with the current proceedings by that and by the former dispatch without withholding the drafts of the consultations from the assistants who were copying them, which would have retarded the dispatches, and as the Board were anxious to send them away he was obliged to write a short letter of explanation and apology to your Secretary, which we hope would be duly considered. We have a reliance on the care and attention of the Sub Secretary, whose province it is to form the indexes, that with the knowledge of your wishes he will do it to your satisfaction.

48. Mr. Ellis is arrived here and has been admitted to the station  
Paragraph 16. you have been pleased to assign him.

49. This paragraph we have transmitted to the Board of Trade for their observance. As long ago as the 26th August 1782 we desired the Board of Trade to cause the goods of each contractor to be packed separately under the immediate inspection of himself, or any one of his agents whom he might appoint to attend at the warehouse for that purpose, and in the bale note to insert his name with that of the fabrick. We have now further desired them to mention the price of the goods that you might be able to judge of the manufactures and relative qualities of each, and we have also desired them to make this specification in the invoices.

Paragraphs 18 to 24. 50. These paragraphs shall be duly attended to.

51. It was formerly the custom of the service to embody cadets on their first arrival in a select piquet where they remained till they could be removed from it in the regular progress of promotion, but this was attended with inconveniences. A number of young men just arrived and of different dispositions collected together from the scantiness of their pay and the distresses consequently brought on by the natural extravagancies of youth, frequently fell into bad habits and examples which affected their future prospects in the army. To obviate the evils which had been experienced the corps was abolished and the cadets attached to the different European regiments, where it was thought the assistance of their friends would enable them to live with greater facility and comfort; but we have nevertheless found it always



necessary and advisable to make them officers as early as possible, being the only means of relieving them from want and the concomitant shifts which attend it.

52. By the reduced establishment of officers there are now about 100 supernumerary ensigns serving under this Presidency; it is with great concern therefore we observe the intention you express of sending 125 cadets to Bengal this season. We hope that the ratification of the peace, which took place soon after the date of your letter, would induce you to abridge the number of these appointments, but at all events we request that you will desist from sending out any more cadets until the complement of officers shall be considerably reduced. In the present state of it, it is burthensome to the service and distressing to the parties themselves who are too often deceived in finding it so.

General Stibberts' letter. Consultation 7th August.

53. It may strike your observation that some appointments of cadets have been made by us since the date of our last letter, wherein we faithfully promised to desist from making any. We think it therefore necessary to explain the nature and cause of these appointments not doubting your confirmation of them. The only one created immediately by ourselves was Mr. Parry whose peculiar talents and qualifications for an engineer officer induced us to attend to the recommendations in his favor and to admit him to be an ensign in that corps. With regard to the rest it had been usual for the commanding officers of our detachments at Bombay and Fort St. George when those corps were in want of subalterns and could not readily be supplied from Bengal to admit volunteers, who from their connections might be properly introduced to them, and subsequently to recommend them, when their services were approved, for our appointment of them as cadets.

54. Mr. Tilfer had been nominated, in this manner, by Colonel Pearse, whom we promised to confirm him if his recommendation should be seconded by Sir Eyre Coote, then on his way back to the Coast. After Sir Eyre's death we received a further application from Colonel Pearse and thought it incumbent on us to confirm Mr. Tilfer, but at the same time repeated and published our determination to make no more cadets on any account whatever; and we actually rejected two persons who had been received as volunteers by Colonel Morgan into his detachment, and one who had been admitted by General Stuart into Colonel Pearse's detachment.

5th May.

21st July.

55. Indeed this was an improper interference of General Stuart who certainly could have no right to appoint a volunteer in the Bengal Detachment, and it brings forward another instance which we were obliged to complain of to the Government under which he acts, as he had appointed staff officers and taken the payment of this corps out of the hands of the proper Paymaster, by directing money for their disbursements to be issued immediately from the Paymaster of the Madrass

30th June.

21st July.

forces, by which the accounts of our detachments must have been thrown into confusion.

56. Our letter of the 5th of April last enclosed an account of the supplies which to that time had been sent by us to your Presidency of Fort Marlborough. We have had no opportunity since of completing their indent but shall attend to it when the season becomes favorable.

Paragraph 28.

57. The instance of disobedience in Captain Haldane, here alluded to, does not fall under our cognizance. He proceeded to Bombay where he had the misfortune to lose his ship, the *Fairford*, by fire. Mrs. Cargill who was a passenger with him has not made her appearance in Bengal.

Paragraphs 30 to 31.

58. On the arrival of every ship the passengers who come out in that ship are summoned before us to give an account of the treatment which they have received from the captains, and are asked what they have respectively paid for their passages. Their answers stand recorded in our proceedings, and will be regularly pointed out to you.

Paragraph 32.

59. We transmitted a copy of this paragraph to the Company's Attorney with directions to notify the contents to the Supreme Court, to whom also we sent your packet supposed to contain the Act of Parliament respecting the estates and property of Sir Thomas Rumbold and Mr. Perring. You will find in our proceedings a copy of the court's order for registering it.

Paragraph 33.

60. These paragraphs have been referred to the Revenue Department, whence a reply will be transmitted to you.

Paragraphs 34 to 37 & Paragraphs 41 to 52

61. We have already had the honor in former advices to acquaint you with our resolution to grant no additional rank to officers quitting India upon the plea of their departure for England, whatever may be the pretensions to our favor from former services or present standing in the army.

62. We have published these paragraphs and taken such measures as were necessary to procure copies of all surveys and journals which might be of use for correcting and improving the navigation of these seas. We shall not fail to transmit to you such lights as we may be able, from time to time, to obtain in consequence. A copy of Captain Ritchie's journal containing his observations on the Bay of Bengal, together with a letter in reply to our requisition for it and copy of a further letter from him make numbers in the packet. In the latter he treats on the nature of the coast to the southward of Point Palmiras, and express[es] his decided opinion that the place called the Schedam Rock has no existence.

Paragraphs 56 to 58.

63. As Mr. Barwell's attornies have not thought proper to recommence any suit against the Company for the rent of his garden house, and  
 Paragraph 59. as they withdrew the former for want of sufficient grounds on which to establish it, we conceive that any application to them on the part of the Company might open a fresh source of litigation; therefore we have thought it prudent to require the Advocate General's opinion on this subject before we take any direct steps in pursuance of your orders.

64. We have transmitted these paragraphs to the Board of Trade, and shall inform you, in the sequel of this letter, of  
 Paragraphs 60-1. our proceedings for supplying you with an investment for this season.

*General Letter 23rd January 1783*

65. In reply to your letter of the 23rd January we can only give you one general assurance, that proper attention shall be paid to every part of its contents.

*General Letters from your Secretary dated 25th January  
 and 15th February 1783*

66. Upon the arrival of these letters we immediately caused the King's Proclamation, of a cessation of arms, to be read and published with every requisite formality, and circulated copies of it to every station of the army and to every subordinate settlement under our jurisdiction, also to our Residents at foreign courts.

*General Letter 14th February 1783*

67. We beg leave to refer you to our letter from the Secret Department for a reply to yours noted in the margin [above].

*General Letter 28th February 1783*

68. In addition to what we have said above respecting the proclamation of the peace, and in order to complete our reply to this letter, we have the honor to acquaint you that, in obedience to your orders, we shall give it in instructions to all the captains of your ships, which we shall henceforth dispatch "for England to make the best of their way to St. Helena, and after staying there a reasonable time to refresh their people, to proceed directly to the river Thames."

*General Letter 1st March 1783*

69. We have before remarked that complete lists of the Company's servants with their several employments annexed have usually been  
 Paragraph 23. forwarded to you by two different ships in each season, but we apprehend the accident to the *Admiral Hughes's* packet and other casualties must have prevented the regular

receipt of them. We shall now alter the form, as you desire, by enumerating all salaries and allowances enjoyed by each person, but it will be impossible to prepare a list so arranged and to complete it, now the service is so much increased, in time for the present dispatch.

Paragraphs 12 to 13. 70. We have sent a copy of these paragraphs with the boxes of muslin, which came in the packets, to the Board of Trade for their information and observance.

Paragraph 15. 71. We ordered the Commissioners of Customs to send a proper person on board of the *Barwell*, immediately on her arrival, with instructions to transmit them a regular account of all the packages which should be taken out of the ship, that they might be landed and examined at the custom house.

Paragraph 16. 72. In consequence of your orders in favor of Mr. Wombwell we immediately resolved to appoint him Paymaster General to all the troops commanded by British officers beyond the river Carramnassa, in which station he will apply to the Resident at Lucknow for all advance of cash which may be necessary for the disbursements of his office, and issue the same through the subordinate paymasters to the officers and men who are entitled to receive it.

*General Letter 6th March 1783*

Paragraphs 1 to 2. 73. We received this letter sometime [after] the foregoing and immediately transmitted a copy of your orders respecting the charts and geographical information, which you require, to Captain Call, our Surveyor General, with particular injunctions to prepare them for you as soon as possible, and to send them to us that they might be forwarded by the earliest dispatch.

I have dissented to this. J. Stables. 74. We have received his reply acquainting us that he has in hand an atlas of India which will be divided into 20 sheets and afterwards collected into one general chart on a reduced scale, and that it is in a sufficient state of forwardness to convey much new and useful information, but being still unfinished, and no copy of it made, it is not in a state to be sent to England. In order to save the time of conveying it thither and to present this work to you as soon as possible Captain Call has requested leave to embark for England that he may complete it on board of ship, which with close attention he is in hopes of doing in the course of the passage. A further motive for this step is the present indifferent state of his health, which renders a change of air advisable and may impede that close application in this climate which is necessary to finish his undertaking.

75. We could not agree to continue Captain Call's pay and allowances to him after his departure, but as his service would have been equally employed for the Company's advantage we agreed to recommend him to



you to grant them in case he should resolve to go to Europe.

The amount to salary per month <i>Sicca</i> rupees ...	... 651
House rent ...	... 400

He in consequence desired an advance of 8 months' pay to defray his expences, under a promise of refunding the amount if you should not approve of it, but we did not think proper to grant the request; and it remains in doubt whether he will pursue his intentions of going to England or not.

76. We have signified your orders regarding the forms of military returns and papers which you require from that Department to the proper officers, who we expect will prepare them in such a manner for the future as to furnish you with all the information you can desire. Lieutenant Colonel Kyd, our Military Secretary and Fort Major, for whose official exactness we can, from a long experience of his regularity and attention, bear testimony, has thought it necessary to address a letter to us in reply to the communication of your orders; and we take the liberty to forward a copy of it in this packet. Consultation 15<sup>th</sup> September. You will see annexed to it a list of all the military returns prepared and sent home from his Department since the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1777; and a general list of the army with casualties up to the 1<sup>st</sup> August will be found in this packet.

*General Letter 27<sup>th</sup> March 1783*

77. We have sent copies of these paragraphs to the Civil Paymaster with orders to call on Mr. Barwell's attornies and to adjust the account with them accordingly. Paragraphs 2 to 5. Consultation 29<sup>th</sup> September.

78. We have likewise sent him a copy of this paragraph and directed him to make the demand contained in it upon the attornies of Mr. Francis. Paragraph 6.

79. We have made the correction pointed out in this paragraph in the rank of Messrs. Becher. Paragraph 8.

80. In our dispatches by the *Surprize* we had the honor to transmit to you a copy of the plan which we had adopted for raising a fund of fifty lacks of current rupees by bills of exchange, to be drawn on you at the end of this year, at the exchange of 2s. 1d. per current rupee, and payable 365 days after sight with a right of option reserved in you to extend the period one, two or three years longer on allowing an interest of 5 per cent per annum till they should be paid. 15<sup>th</sup> April.

81. This sum was accordingly received and invested in cotton piece



goods under the sole direction of the Board of Trade, to whom we thought proper to leave the uncontrolled management of its appropriation in detail.

82. On a representation from the Board of Trade in favor of the provision of a silk investment, in consequence of the  
 20th May. present improved quality of the manufacture and the reduced price of its delivery, we thought the subject so essential to your commercial interests that we requested the attendance of Mr. Dacres, the President of that Board, to assist us with his sentiments and experience in deciding the question before us. At length, after the most mature deliberation we saw manifold  
 26th May. advantages in allowing a moderate provision of silk to be made for the Company. The public filatures would be kept in use; all competition among individuals for a preference in obtaining them or a suspicion of partiality in bestowing them would be prevented, and a certainty established of continuing so valuable a branch of manufacture which under the precarious and distant expectations of an open and exclusive trade to individuals might have been neglected by them and perhaps have been allowed entirely to drop.

83. For this and other considerations, tending to the advantage of the revenues and the fabrick, we ventured to agree to a deviation from the express letter of your commands in admitting a limited investment of silk, which we accordingly fixed at fifteen lacks of current rupees, being half the amount of last year's provision.

84. A further loan was accepted for this service upon the same terms as the foregoing; and the bills which we are to grant for it will be dated the 31st of January next.

85. This sum having been allotted by the Board of Trade to the filatures belonging to the Company, under the superintendence of the covenanted servants, a petition was presented to that Board, and referred to our consideration from Messrs. Croftes, Killican and Close, who had heretofore held contracts for the delivery of silk to the Company by which they had been led into considerable expence for erecting private filatures, praying that they also might be allowed to contract for a part of the present year's provision. As it was not too late to alter the appropriation of the sum allotted for silk, and the amount of the contracts desired by the petitioners to keep their filatures at work was not considerable, we agreed to allow them to provide half the quantity which they had delivered in the last year, [and] admitted of an increase to the silk investment for this purpose of current rupees 1,62,400.

86. Should this business become a subject of your future deliberations we solicit your attention to our correspondence  
 Consultations 19th, 20th, 26th May, 30th June, 17th July. with the Board of Trade, and therefore note in the margin the dates of the proceedings in which it is recorded. Probably you will find them materially necessary for conveying

to you an accurate and complete idea of our respective sentiments upon a matter of so much importance to the trade of this country.

87. In consequence of the publication of your licence for the trade of individuals in raw silk to England we have already received one notification of a design to make use of it to the extent of two tons. We shall give every encouragement in our power to its becoming general, and have therefore declared that the property of individuals in silk shall be equally exempt from duty on exportation as the Company's investment. We hope that the experiment will be found to answer the motives which suggested it, the Company's future trade in this article we are persuaded will feel the good effects of it.

88. An application having been made to us by Mr. Briganti, one of your superintendents of raw silk, desiring to have a piece of ground for the purpose of cultivating mulberry plantations and erecting filatures for the manufacture of silk on private account, with intention to transfer it through your indulgence to England, we have ordered the Committee of Revenue to assist him in obtaining the ground which he requires, and to make him a grant of it for a certain time and under special reservations.

Consultation 28th  
July.

89. Before we quit the subject of raw silk we think it necessary to call to your remembrance the case of Mr. Peter Speake, your Resident at Jungypore, who, when we considered the proposal of the contractors for last year, was unwilling to contract for the fabricks of that filature on the terms *sicca* rupees 8-12 per seer, which were allowed to other contractors, but offered and engaged to manufacture silk of the best kind, with all possible attention to economy, and to deliver in faithful accounts of his expences, trusting to us for such commission as we might afterwards deem adequate to his labors and success. On a report from the Board of Trade that he had sent down the produce of his filature, which was of an excellent quality, and that it was charged at a rate somewhat inferior to the sum offered him, we desired them to make up the difference of that price, to be considered as part of any compensation that you might be willing to give to him, and we beg leave to recommend his silk to your inspection for such further reward as you may think him deserving of, after a comparison of it with the generality of the silk of other contractors, which you will receive from hence at the same time.

Consultation 4th  
August.

90. After hearing of the ratification of the preliminaries of peace with the belligerent powers in Europe and America and considering the number of your ships already in India, that which might further be expected and the disappointments you must already have suffered in the dispatch and non-arrival of consignments from hence for two years past, which circumstance could not fail to increase the demand for Bengal goods, we consulted the Board of Trade on the expediency of augmenting the sum for the proposed investment of this year, and upon

their concurring with us in this measure, we resolved to open a subscription for a further loan of thirty-five lacks of current rupees, in order to complete the sum of the investment to one crore. The above sum has accordingly been subscribed on the terms of our publication, and the drafts which are to be made upon you for it will be granted the 31st December 1784, at the same exchange and distance of payment as the present.

91. This new loan will supply a fund for the silk contracts above-mentioned, and excepting this and 3,48,000 current rupees which, at the recommendation of the Board of Trade, we allowed to be invested in indigo, in order to effect a compromise between them and Mr. Prinsep for his claim found on a mortgage deed that the Company should receive the implements and stock of the Pulta factory in liquidation of his bond for two lacks of rupees, the remainder of the sum will be appropriated to the provision of those articles which in your list of investment you have enjoined an increase of as being the most profitable in the sale.

92. We have desired the Board of Trade to relate to you the particulars of their proceedings regarding the adjustment of accounts between the Company and Mr. Prinsep in the article of his chintz contract, which also involves the present contract entered into with him for indigo.

Consultation 18th August.

93. You will observe that the necessities of our own calls for the payment of the army and the detachments of it at Surat and Fort St. George, besides the heavy drafts made upon us from the latter Presidency, all of which came with accumulated weight and urgency at a season of the year when the collections were least productive, obliged us to appropriate the sums which were paid into the treasury on account of the above loans to the discharge of these several calls; and indeed a very small part of the loan was received in cash but almost all by transfers of bills due, or orders on the treasury unpaid, which were in the possession of the parties who had subscribed to the loan.

94. In either case we were prevented from making the requisite advance to the Board of Trade, which they ought to have received at the regular periods when the money became due from the subscribers. To avoid the obvious consequence of this evil we punctually granted orders on the treasury in favor of the Board of Trade for these several sums and empowered their President to issue to the contractors, according as their demands should fall due, his notes of assignment on the orders of treasury, to be paid off in course with an interest of 8 per cent per annum for the interval which might elapse between the period of their dates and that of payment.

95. An application was lately made to us by Mr. Dacres to be paid the amount of commission due to him upon coral and diamonds since his arrival at the station of President of the Board of Trade, as by the 13th paragraph of your instructions to this Government dated 29th March 1774 it is

Consultation 26th May.

declared to have been your intention and order that the same should be given to the person holding that office. An account of the diamonds which had been registered as dispatched for England was at the same time laid before us. After a proper authentication of this account we agreed to grant Mr. Dacres a conditional interest bond for the amount of his commission upon it, calculated at the rate of 2 per cent, but subject to your final approbation. The bond has been accordingly issued under a medium date, that is to say antedated so far as to make it bear a proportion to the length of time which the claim lay dormant, and it contains a clause by which it is left at your option to annul the whole or any part of the bond, provided you shall signify your orders for that purpose to us within 18 months after the arrival of this notification of it in England. This was a reservation which we thought it necessary to make, notwithstanding our opinion of the propriety of the claim, because it was the first instance in which it had been preferred to us.

96. In consequence of a correspondence which we have had with the Board of Trade upon the subject of the stores occasionally required from their import warehouse for the use of the public services, as they demanded an increase of the prices at which they had hitherto invariably delivered them to the agents and contractors, we directed the public offices which had occasion for stores from England to prepare indents for what they might annually require to be sent out to them and in the meantime desired the Board of Trade to continue furnishing them as usual, in order to prevent the additional expence and inconvenience of altering the terms of our agreement with the contractors, or unnecessarily increasing the commissions of the agents by obliging them to purchase in the market. The indents which we have received make numbers in the present packet, and we request that you will order the articles to be provided and consigned separately to the several offices which have indented for them.

97. We have received applications from Mr. Bie, the Danish Governor  
 14th August. of Fredericksnagore, and from the supercargoes of several Portuguese ships, now in this river, for liberty to export saltpetre on their ships to Europe, urging that the restoration of peace now obviates the only objection which had caused an embargo to be laid on it. Not having received any orders from you for taking off the embargo and being unwilling to do it while so large a quantity of the Company's saltpetre remained upon hand we thought the opportunity a good one to dispose of a part of this stock, and therefore offered to deliver  
 Consultation 18th August. as much of it to the Danes and Portuguese, with liberty to export it, as they should require for balasting their ships at the price which the Company had paid for it, and an increase of 10 per cent for wastage and warehouse room.

98. In consequence of the general indent for grain, which we have  
 Consultation 14th April. received this year from the President and Council at Fort St. George, and of our publications for proposals to supply them at the lowest prices, we have entered



into the following contracts for this purpose, to be fulfilled in the course of the approaching fair season, viz.,

Consultation 14th April. With Mr. John Fergusson for rice 2,40,000 bags at *sicca* rupees 6-12 per bag.

7th July. With Mr. J. Beatson for 50,000 bags at *sicca* rupees 6-12 per bag.

With the Honourable Robert Lindsay 45,000 bags at *sicca* rupees 6-12 per bag.

4th August. With Mr. W. Wodsworth for Balasore rice 15,000 bags at *sicca* rupees 6 per bag.

12th May. With Mr. W. Bruere for 5,000 bags of wheat, 5,000 bags of grain, 2,500 bags of pease, 1,000 bags of colloy [*sic*] to be delivered at Madras before the monsoon in October, at 9-4 per bag.

With Mr. J. L. Auriol for the like articles at the same price.

99. Mr. R. W. Wood, who had been prevented from compleating his contract for the dispatch of rice to Madras in February last, on account of the French ships then in the Bay, was, at his particular desire, released from his obligation after we had accepted the first of the above proposals. This was also a saving to the Company as the rate stipulated with him was 7 *sicca* rupees per bag for rice laden and dispatched from this river at the Company's risk.

100. As Mr. Wood obtained his contract not in consequence of public proposals but by means of a private offer which we deemed reasonable and accepted, we must remark that his desire of being released from it affords a strong proof that such contracts have not been granted to serve individuals but entered into solely with a view to the advantages of the public.

101. We have advised you of the endeavours we used and the success we met with in establishing through the channel of Gopaul Doss, the principal shroff of Benares, houses at Massulipatam and Fort St. George, also intermediate agencies at Cuttack, Naugpore, Aurangabad and Hyderabad, for the purpose of securing a remittance at all times for the service of the army in the Carnatic; and the shroff agreed to make them competent to the negotiation of 5 lacks of rupees per month if required.

102. As his agents have experienced so many obstructions in their business from the dilatoriness of the mint at Massulipatam, and the refusal of the Council there to receive the payments tendered at the current and



circulating rates of exchange, and as objections were made both by the President and Council at Fort St. George and by their subordinate servants at Massulipatam to the plan which had with so much difficulty and at a considerable expence to the parties been carried into execution, we desired the shroff to relinquish his *kooties* or houses and to withdraw his agents. But in justification of the measure and of our subsequent proceedings it is proper we shall now explain to you the cause which suggested it, and the utility which has been experienced from it.

103. The necessity which existed for a constant and ample remittance of funds from this place to support the pressing and indispensable calls of the Government of Fort St. George is a circumstance of public notoriety, and strenuously urged in all the letters from that Government. The seasons from March to August and from September to December are so unfavourable to the dispatch of vessels that the passage is always tedious and hazardous between those months, consequently the risk of conveying treasure by sea was proportionally great and the object was often not to be accomplished.

104. To provide for a certain and safe remittance during those intervals we thought of establishing a channel by bills of exchange, similar to that which had long prevailed in our intercourse with Bombay and Surat, but it was never intended to make use of this channel except in those periods when the communication was not open or safe by sea.

105. The increased danger in the Bay, proceeding from the great number of the enemy's ships which were scattered over it, and at one time the total suspension of the trade of this port from the terror of their cruizers stationed at the mouth of the river, made it impracticable to dispatch treasure by sea but with an equal chance of throwing these supplies into the hands of the enemy, which were intended and absolutely requisite for our own occasions.

106. In this situation of affairs we have made the following remittances by bills to Fort St. George and Massulipatam:

To Fort St. George

In 1782	...	...	...	<i>sicca</i> rupees	60,339
In 1783	...	...	...	do. do.	3,20,100

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3,80,439

To Massulipatam

In 1782	...	...	...	15,45,500
In 1783	...	...	...	3,09,100

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18,54,600

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*Sicca* rupees 22,35,039

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107. In the commencement of this business the shroff was obliged to use the simple and only expedient of sending bullion by land to answer

his drafts when they became due, which could not be transported without great risk and expence, he necessarily therefore required a suitable rate of exchange to indemnify him for these deductions, and ten per cent was allowed but we then expected that the first difficulties would by degrees be surmounted and the actual charges in time rendered more certain and easy; for these reasons the agreement was made only for six months certain, it was not intended to obtain any present profit to the Company but to lead to the establishment of a future and lasting benefit, any computation made on the original exchange was therefore unfair yet the Chief and Council at Massulipatam in their remarks upon the measure make this the criterion for judging of the disadvantages of it, however, even at this rate it is more profitable than the remittance of bullion, viz.,

Freight on bullion to Madras at 3 per cent	...	...	3
War insurance	...	...	8
Charges of recoinage	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			13
Premium of exchange on bills	...	...	10
			<hr/>
		Difference per cent	3

108. The Chief and Council at Massulipatam complained to us of the tardy payments which had been made on account of the shroff's bills, of the unreasonable monopoly which the shroff's agent desired to take in the article of coinage in consequence of the privilege granted him of a preference in their mint, and of unreasonable advantages also claimed by him in the exchange of every species of currency which he tendered in payment of his bills. When we called upon the principal Agent to answer these complaints he totally removed the prejudice conveyed by them. He confessed that he had laid claim to the exclusive services of the mint because the utmost efforts of that office were inadequate to the coinage of his own bullion, and until that operation was performed the Chief and Council refused to receive it in payment of his bills, which consequently made them the authors of any delay originating from that cause; and that it was evidently the intention of the shroff to be more than punctual in his payments is evinced by his having solicited an interest account to be opened, in which he might be credited for interest on ante payment and debited for interest or [on] post payments. To obviate this complaint however he desired that his bullion might be received at its intrinsic value, to be proved by an assay of the mint with the deduction of a reasonable allowance for the charge of recoinage, and that he might be allowed credit immediately for the amount, by which mode his concern in the speedy coinage of it would be removed and they might perform that operation at their own convenience, and admit others to a participation of the labors of the mint if they thought proper. With respect to any advantage in the exchange he said he desired nothing more than an equitable rate for the gold, which he had delivered in payment,

to be regulated by the medium rate of its actual currency, either at the time of payment or during 12 months preceding it, but would not agree that it should not [*sic*] be taken at an arbitrary and nominal valuation under the denomination of its being the Company's exchange.

109. We transmitted a copy of this representation to the Chief and Council at Massulipatam with a request that they would adjust the accounts of the shroff in any manner which might be equitable, and if, from the experience they had of the undertaking, they judged it more advantageous to drop than to prosecute it we desired to know their real sentiments that we might order the shroff to withdraw his agents and consider what indemnification he might have a right to expect for the charges we had obliged him to incur. In their reply they referred us to their former letters, and as we understood that the accounts of the shroff remained still unadjusted, and no part of his drafts either cancelled or delivered up to him, we thought it in vain to persevere in supporting a plan which met with so much opposition from the very quarter which alone benefited by its establishment; we therefore resolved to withdraw it.

Consultation 28th  
April. *Vide* also 1st  
April.

110. Scarcely had we passed this resolution before we received a letter from the Chief and Council at Massulipatam informing us they had determined ("that no impediment should be thrown in the way of the continuance of these remittances which are so much wanted at Madras, and that the *soucars* should not complain even though the Company must suffer a loss by their wished for mode of adjustment") to comply with the requisition of the *gomasta*, and accordingly directed the 39,000 Madras *pagodas* paid in by them to be regulated at the current price of rupees at the time of payment, agreeable to his wishes. And the President and Select Committee at Madras inform us, nearly about the same time, that "the remittances by bill, which they understood we meant should equal 5 lacks of rupees per month, have not equalled from the first remittance to that time 15½ lacks of rupees, which would be little more than one lack of rupees per month."

Consultation 15th  
September.  
Letter 7th August.

Secret Consultation  
13th September.  
Letter 23rd August.

111. Since we have received these letters we have consulted the Chief Agent here to know whether he is willing to allow his *cootees* to remain notwithstanding our orders for withdrawing them, and being informed that he has no objection if the views of this Government can be promoted by it, we shall direct him to continue them some time longer. Nevertheless we cannot take upon us to say whether it will yet answer—this must depend on a variety of circumstances and essentially upon the endeavours of each Presidency to encourage it. If upon every trivial occasion the agents are vexatiously used and thwarted they must naturally be disinclined to give their endeavours for the promotion of the plan and it must fail of success. We speak not so much of those strict claims which the Company's servants might perhaps be warranted in making upon the

shroffs as of those personal attentions and marks of kindness which are especially necessary in the beginning to induce the persons on whom the execution of any considerable undertaking depends to labor chearfully in the execution of it.

112. The Governor General begs leave to declare that he has warmly interested himself in planning and setting it on foot, by sending for the Chief Agent in Calcutta and giving up many hours of his time in discussing with him the relative connection and the intercourse of places and their geographical situation.

113. If you will be pleased to consult the map you will perceive that a line of banking houses through such an extent of country could not be established without time and difficulty, and that merchants with timid minds would never hazard the attempt. Indeed the Governor General is convinced that nothing less than his own sollicitude about it and the reliance of the shroff on the united support of the Company's Governments could have prevailed with him to enter into it.

114. You will probably receive a letter containing very severe reproaches against us from the President and Council at Fort St. George for having been the means of withholding from their power and use remittances in specie to the amount of ten lacks of rupees, which we dispatched by the *Resolution* and *San Carlos* under consignment to the late Sir Eyre Coote. We shall therefore state the circumstances of this transaction.

115. While the late General Sir Eyre Coote was in command of the army upon the Coast, and removed to a distance from Fort St. George, we thought it might conduce to a speedy recoinage of the specie sent thither to alter the consignment of it, which till that time had been made directly to him for the service of the army, and trusting in the Government of Fort St. George to appropriate it exclusively to the same use we resolved to consign it in future to them.

116. In the month of July 1782, some time previous to Sir Eyre Coote's return to Bengal, the army being then greatly in arrears and unable to march to effect the relief of Vellour without an immediate supply of money, which it was out of the power of the Government to advance or procure, Sir Eyre Coote, on his own personal security, borrowed the sum of one lack of pagodas from the Admiral for the purpose, and with it effected the service required. He advised us immediately of this loan and of the obligations which he had entered into that it should be discharged out of the first remittance from Bengal.

Secret Consultation  
26th August 1782.

117. We shortly after dispatched a supply of 6 lacks of rupees in treasure by the *Active*, and in order to enable the General to repay the amount of his bond we gave him an express power for that purpose, desiring the President and Council to hold the remittance exclusively at his command.



118. It happened that the very indifferent state of the General's health obliged him to quit Madras before the arrival of the above treasure or of our letters which advised him of it. He nevertheless gave the Admiral a confirmation of the assurances he had made to him; and our letter to Sir Eyre Coote was in course received by his secretary after his departure from Madras, and communicated to Lord Macartney as authority for him to order the repayment of the Admiral's loan. His Lordship however did not receive it as authority, because our letter to that Government did not express an order for it in terms, and this remittance was otherwise appropriated.

119. No doubt Sir Eyre Coote, whose feelings were by his indisposition and former differences with the Government at Madras rendered uncommonly acute and irritable, was hurt by this stain cast upon his credit, but as the Admiral, knowing the cause of it, had written to him in consequence that he was not immediately in want of payment, and proceeded afterwards with the fleet to Bombay, we thought it would be early enough to provide for this claim upon the General's return to resume the command of the army in the Carnatic, which at our solicitation he agreed to do as soon as the state of his health would permit him. But to avoid a future disappointment he desired to possess the only means of commanding the certain liquidation of his bond to the Admiral by having the treasure consigned to him as before, we therefore resolved immediately to consign these supplies to Sir Eyre Coote.

120. We must confess that we were aware of the precarious state of health in which the General embarked on this service, but we could not without wounding his feelings have proposed any alternative for the delivery of the treasure in the event of his death, especially as we ourselves had been solely instrumental in pressing him to such a resolution.

121. The event of his death unfortunately happened. The treasure was in consequence lodged in charge of Colonel Owen, a gentleman of his family; and the Admiral made an early claim for the reimbursement of his loan. Colonel Owen offered to deliver up the treasure to the President and Council at Fort St. George burthened with the condition of the bond, but they did not chuse to receive it on those terms; the money therefore remained with Colonel Owen who wrote by an express dispatch to us for our orders concerning the disposal of it. We instantly ordered him to deliver it up to the Government of Fort St. George, and directed them to discharge the Admiral's demand.

122. In the meantime the *San Carlos* arrived at Madrass with the second consignment which, in like manner with the first, was delivered into the charge of Colonel Owen. His correspondence with the Government of Fort St. George concerning it will be seen both in their records and ours, but the issue was that they acquiesced in his desire to pay off the General's bond, which was accordingly done

Secret Committee  
7th May.

Secret Consultation  
7th May.  
Public Consultations  
26th May, 3rd July.



and the residue delivered up to the Company's treasury at Madras.

123. Admiral Sir Edward Hughes having thought proper to reject every supply which we have tendered to him for the use of the fleet under his command we deem it necessary to inform you fully of our proceedings on this subject.

124. In consequence of the 18th, 22nd, 23rd and 24th clauses of the Act of the Parliament of the 21st year of the present reign, entitled "An Act for Establishing an agreement with the United Company" etc., whereby it is enacted that "from and after the 5th day of July 1782 until peace shall be restored with France, Spain and Holland the said United Company shall provide and supply all the victualling to be delivered in the East Indies necessary for His Majesty's ships and vessels etc., and also for all the sick and hurt seamen belonging to such ships" etc.

125. We on the 28th October 1782 appointed Mr. Stephen Sullivan to the post of Agent for furnishing all such supplies as could be procured in these provinces, under whatever rules, orders and regulations might be framed by the persons authorized thereunto in the 24th clause of the said Act, and directed him to comply with all requisitions from the Admiral for stores of any kind procurable here. Of this we gave immediate information to the Admiral who was then gone with the whole fleet to Bombay.

126. Although we had no instructions from you, at this time, for our conduct, but proceeded only on the grounds prescribed by the Act of Parliament, we afterwards received your commands of the 18th June and 12th July 1782, directing us to comply fully with the said Act. Upon which we again wrote to the Admiral advising him of the purport of your orders, and repeating our intentions of fulfilling the provision of the Act, for which purpose we desired him "to favor us with timely notice of any articles he should want from this place, that we might be able to furnish them at the instant he had occasion for them". And observing by a letter which he had written from Bombay to the President and Council at Fort St. George that he desired their assistance for enabling the correspondents of the Victualling Agent to take as large a quantity of biscuit as possible, we ordered 12,000 bags, provided by Mr. Sullivan, to be sent immediately to Fort St. George for the use of the fleet.

127. On the 10th of April the Admiral acknowledged the receipt of our first letter, [and] informed us that "the Presidency of Bombay on his requisition to them for fulfilling the terms of the Act declared their inability to perform it and declined the task," and that he intended to make a similar application to the Presidency of Madras, of which he enclosed a copy, seeming to expect his supplies entirely through their means if furnished at the

Company's expence, and that we should consign any that we should provide to that Presidency to be delivered by them. On which occasion he used the following words, "the only application I could or can make, with any propriety to my rank of station, to Mr. Sullivan is to desire he will send all the naval stores he can possibly procure at Calcutta to the President and Council at Madras, because I know more of these stores will be wanted than that Presidency can possibly furnish. With respect to the provisions, if that Presidency undertakes the victualling of His Majesty's squadron, they will need and no doubt ask your assistance." His letter then proceeds to explain the duties of the Agent Victualler and Naval Storekeeper, and declare that those offices were annulled by the Act; in consequence of which the Company's agents ought to stand in their place.

128. In answer to this letter we transmitted to the Admiral a list  
 Consultation 1st prepared by our Agent of such articles of stores as  
 May. were procurable here, and remarked that we should have been better pleased had he resolved to make his application directly to us for them, instead of desiring us to furnish them through the channel of Fort St. George.

129. A few days afterwards we received a further letter from the Admiral, in consequence of ours of the 6th of March, wherein he mentions that before the receipt of it, not chusing to trust  
 Secret Consultation the existance of more than 10,000 men and 30 of His  
 7th May. Majesty's ships and vessels to the precarious supplies  
 Letter 29th April. of Mr. Sullivan, he had ordered the former Agent Victualler to provide and keep in readiness four months' provisions of all species against the end of June, and 6 months' more against the end of September. And he recommended it to us to appoint proper officers at the several ports where he might go, to undertake and begin the victualing, storing etc., of the squadron by the 1st January next, or sooner if possible, when he would direct the remains of His Majesty's provisions and stores to be delivered over to them.

130. It is worthy of remark in this place that the orders given by the Admiral to his own Agent Victualler for providing a supply of 10 months' provisions were antecedent to his letter of the 29th April, and that on the 10th of the same month, being only 19 days before, he expressed to us his disposition to give his best assistance towards carrying the Act into execution. It appears also that after the offer we had made to furnish him with supplies to any extent which he might require, he is not warranted in stiling our supplies "precarious."

131. After this we thought it necessary to be more explicit in declaring our constructions of the Act and our intentions to fulfill the spirit of it accordingly, therefore we replied to the Admiral  
 Secret Consultation recapitulating the steps we had taken, and declaring  
 12th May. that his last letter left us entirely at a loss how to proceed in this business. It contained a virtual rejection of the biscuit we had promised to send him and required an arrangement which was at

the same time difficult, distant, expensive, uncertain, and we thought no wise necessary. We therefore observed that "it would not be possible to make an indefinite provision for so remote a period, and we must therefore request that he would be pleased to send us specific indents for such articles as he might require, mentioning the time when they would be wanted and the places where they should be delivered." We further added "that in our idea, the duty of our Agent would be discharged upon delivery of such stores to the person whom he might appoint for the receipt and distribution of them."

132. We must confess we were astonished to find in the Admiral's reply to this letter a charge insinuated against us of "an attempt to ruin the companies of the several ships by holding up to him, as the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's squadron, partial supplies of bread and other articles".

30th June.

Secret Consultation  
29th July.

This contained a reflection of so criminal a nature that, however destitute of foundation in fact, and repugnant to the eagerness with which we had seized the few occasions presented to us of aiding the operations of the fleet, we could not avoid expressing our sense of it to him in such terms as we thought the occasion required, and at the

Secret Consultation  
18th August.

same time retorting it upon the Agent whom, as above-mentioned he informed us, he had ordered to lay in a full supply of four months' provisions from the end of June, and of 6 months' more from the end of September, as the present letter gave sufficient ground for it, by declaring that 10,000 brave men, who had fought with him for their country, were actually starved. And we must further observe to you that the biscuit and rum, which we had ordered to be sent to Madras for the use of the fleet, were regularly tendered to the Admiral on their arrival at that place by the President and Council, but refused by him without

Consultation 15th  
September.

Letter from Madras  
23rd August.

examining their quality, which on their original provision had been reported to us good. And without assigning any reason but because (as we presume) they were partial supplies, yet declaring that His Majesty's squadron must not be left to chance he wrote in these words "that the attempt to victual so great a number of His Majesty's ships and vessels, by our resident Agent at Calcutta, was too ridiculous to be attended to." At the same time it is worthy of remark that his own resident Agent at Calcutta is the person who to this time furnished the greatest part of the provisions required to victual this numerous squadron, and it is proper also to mention that the rum, above-mentioned, was the same that this Agent had declined to receive from us for want of authority from the Admiral, as will be stated in the sequel of this letter.

133. A complaint was made to us by Sir Edward Hughes against our Agent for having addressed a letter to him threatening him with a prosecution for declining to receive the provisions and stores requisite for the supply of the fleet through his agency, but taking means to furnish them by a different channel independant of the Company and of their repre-

Secret Consultation  
29th July.

sentatives. The Agent had written the letter, complained of by the Admiral, without the knowledge of the Board; he informed us that he had received a letter from Sir Edward Hughes in return to his own referring him to his public advices to us, for an answer of which he therefore desired to be allowed a copy. We authorized a copy to be delivered to him accordingly and he in justification of the letter complained of sent in copies of opinions of counsel whom  
 Consultation 14th August. he had consulted upon the exclusive right of furnishing the articles required by the fleet from these provinces under the Act of Parliament, and upon the justice of any claim which he might make on the Admiral, as involved in it, for refusing to employ him. One of these opinions was taken after the receipt of the Admiral's complaint, but both are clearly in favor of the Agent's right and the first had stimulated him to dictate the letter in question.

134. On a subject of so much importance as the supply of His Majesty's ships in India with stores and provisions we have thought it necessary to give you a particular detail of our proceedings, but for your fuller information, if that should be necessary, we must request that you will be pleased to give your attention to the references which we have made in the margin to our proceedings as they occurred.

135. The Agent whom we had appointed for this service, and whose allowances and advantages we left to be determined by the rule which might be prescribed by those to whom the Act refers  
 4th and 7th August. for the arrangement of this business, being thus destitute of employment, and having given up the office of Judge Advocate General for the sake of this appointment, petitioned us for some compensation for his disappointment equivalent to what he had relinquished, which he stated at 2,000 rupees per month. To prevent his suffering by an exchange which was intended to be beneficial to him, we have agreed to make him this allowance from the date of his appointment until some certain regulation be fixed for its reward, he having entered into an obligation to refund this allowance if disapproved of by your Honorable Court.

136. The Admiral has at different times written to us for supplies of gunpowder, and a short time before his last engagement with Monsieur Suffrein he applied for 2,000 barrels; which quantity,  
 June 23rd. as His Majesty's transports sent here by the Admiral were unable to convey any part of it, we have dispatched to Fort St. George by the *Britannia* snow, as well for the service  
 [...] September. of our land forces there as for the exigencies of the fleet.

137. It is proper to mention that the Admiral having recommended Mr. R. Nowland, whom he sent here as Agent for providing articles for the use of the fleet at this place previous to our appointment of Mr. Sullivan, the Governor General gave him early personal assurances on which he might rely for the support and assistance of our Government in every instance which could tend to facilitate the execution of his



trust. He still continued to act after Mr. Sullivan's appointment, and having represented to us that the delays which he had suffered not receiving the amount of bills drawn in his favor from Madras, though long due, prevented him from purchasing the necessary supplies for the fleet; notwithstanding his situation was common with that of others who had bills

June 30th. on us to a very considerable amount from the same place, we ordered an immediate advance to be made to him out of our first receipts, and a preference to be given, in future, to his bills that so essential a branch of the public service might not suffer by a delay of payment from us.

138. To the Agent we made a tender of the rum originally purchased for the fleet before it was sent to Madras, and of the residue of the salt provisions which had been delivered by Mr. Touchet, in consequence of the contract with him, and which had not been dispatched to Madras because that Government desired we would  
7th August. desist from sending them any more; but both were refused by the Agent under the plea of want of instructions and authority from the Admiral, and we had no alternative for the disposal of the latter but to sell them.

139. We have received through the channel of the President and Council of Fort St. George three commissions from the Court of Admiralty in England addressed to the Mayor and Aldermen of  
May 12th. the town of Calcutta, empowering them to examine and send home evidence for the condemnation of prizes captured from the enemy by sea. We sent these documents immediately to the Supreme Court of Judicature. As the war is at an end it is in a manner rendered unnecessary to remark that had it continued they could not have been of any essential use here, because the Mayor's Court in Calcutta has had no existence since the year 1774.

140. Having, at the solicitation of the merchants and commanders of ships of this port, established a Bye-Law for forming a registry office of *lascars* and native seamen, and for regulating that branch of the police, we enclosed a copy of it by this packet according to Act of Parliament.

141. In consequence of the opinion of our Committee of Revenue we have agreed to allow Mr. Tirretta to erect a public market place on  
1st May. [the] ground which he had purchased, consisting of three different divisions for the sale of the different necessaries of life, that is to say meat, fish and greens. He is to pay to Government, on a lease of the same, for 5 years the usual rent of the *buzars* lately established there, being 500 rupees per annum for each division.

142. We had the honor to inform you, by the *Surprize*, of the notification given to Mr. Prinsep of your orders, and requiring his surrender of the grant which he possessed of copper mines in Rotas and of the copper mint. For his reply  
14th April.  
7th July. we beg leave to refer you to our records. It appears that the term during which the Company retained the right of annulling

his grant was elapsed, and that the deed was consequently irrevocable; he was nevertheless willing to submit his situation to the consideration and justice of the Board, but begged to be allowed to coin the balance of his copper on hand, and to be granted orders to the Chiefs of Patna and Bogglipore to receive his coin, lying in balance at those places, for the Company's account. We complied with this last

July 7th. request but forbid his stamping any more coin, and ordered him to deliver up his dyes to the Sub Treasurer. And to prevent his suffering a loss by any copper which he might have remaining uncoined we allowed him to return it as he received it into the Company's stores.

143. We have received a letter from Colonel Watson containing final proposals for the completion of his docks, and  
14th August. estimating his claims upon the Company for compensation of his losses at the sum of £2,00,000 sterling. We have yet made no reply to this letter but beg leave to point it out for your information.

144. On the 17th of April last we received an account of the death of the Nabob Rohuldeen Hussein Cawn at Purnea,  
17th April. and consequently the pension enjoyed by him of 60,000 rupees per annum reverted to the Company.

145. From the circumscribed and distressed condition of the Nabob Mahomed Reza Cawn's finances, which were insufficient to support the state which he had been accustomed to live in, and to maintain the numerous train of dependants subsisting at his expence, we took into consideration a motion made for adding this sum to his stipend, or settling it, in equal proportions, upon his two sons. And having referred to your several orders, regarding Mahomed Reza Cawn, we thought it consistant with the intention you had expressed in his favor to grant this addition to his income, especially as it would only raise it to the sum of 3 lacks of rupees per annum, at which it originally stood on his restoration to the office of *Naib Suba*. We therefore resolved to  
28th April. allow it to him or his sons to be paid to them in equal proportions at his own choice.

146. By the letters which we have received from Lucknow we find great apprehensions prevail of an approaching famine in the Nabob's districts.<sup>2</sup> A scarcity of grain has already been severely felt in all the western countries towards Delhi, and from the uncommon draught of the season to the northward of Calcutta the crops upon the ground have been scorched and nearly destroyed. This evil has been less felt as it reached to the southward where the grain is chiefly produced, and the season of the periodical rains not being entirely over we have yet hopes that a fall of water may come in time to prevent the total loss of the present harvest. To guard against the effects of scarcity as much as possible in the other countries we have taken off all  
29th September. duties upon the exportation of grain to those parts.

147. Previous to the receipt of the proclamation of peace with France we had granted passports to two French officers to proceed to the coast of

21st July. Corramandel upon their paroles, and a proposal was suggested of transporting all the French prisoners to Fort St. George, agreeable to the desire of Colonel Savornier, the chief officer here, who promised to become security for the neutrality of the men. Very few days after we received authentic accounts of the peace, accompanied by a request from the President and Council at Fort St. George that the prisoners might be sent thither forthwith to be exchanged or delivered up to the Commander in Chief of the French forces. We

11th August. consequently annulled the above passports in order to place all the French officers upon the same footing, and invited proposals to transport them with the men to Madras. Having fixed the rates with the owners of such ships as would receive them at the lowest terms offered, we have already sent away 15th September. several and the remainder are now embarking on a large ship for Madras.

148. Having kept our proceedings separate upon all business which respected the Dutch we shall also address you a separate letter upon that subject by this opportunity, as we have matters of some importance to treat upon.

149. Having ordered the several annuities granted upon the plan published for raising that fund which you disapproved of to be redeemed on the 19th March last, the proprietors will receive payment accordingly upon certificates being produced that they were living on that day. And we have drawn on you in favor of those who are in England for the income due up to that time and payable on the like condition.

150. You will likewise find that we have drawn bills of exchange upon you, in conformity to our resolution of the 15th November 1782, in favor of the widow of the late Mr. John Stuart, formerly Secretary to this Government, for the sum of current rupees 23,933-8-0 which we have been induced to grant from the motives assigned in our proceedings, and we hope you will be pleased to honor them.

151. The executors of the late Mr. Charles Pipon, who had held the office of Deputy Paymaster to the 2nd Brigade, having consented to pay the principal of his debt to the Company, being current rupees [. . . . .], and finding by the opinion of the Advocate General, whom we consulted, that any claim for interest upon an open account was not likely to be successfully prosecuted we agreed to accept the same in full liquidation of his balance.

152. You will see upon our consultations a correspondence which

has passed with the acting executor of Mr. Robert Burgh, late Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade, respecting the various claims of the Company upon his estate. Such of these as were admitted by the executor, amounting to current rupees 1,01,986-6-6, the Military Paymaster General has positively required payment of immediately. The rest are submitted to arbitration, in which Mr. William Bushby has been appointed arbitrator on the part of the Company and Mr. David Killican on behalf of the estate.

Consultations 17th  
July, 14th August.  
21st August.

153. In our last letter having promised to send you a report of the state of the new road from Benares we have the honor to enclose a copy of Captain Rankin's account of it. On the receipt of which we called upon Major James Crawford, who had repeatedly marched upon it a considerable distance with his regiment and guns, for his unbiassed opinion of its condition and probable utility. We transmit you a copy of his reply to which we intreat your attention.

Consultation 20th  
May.

Consultation 30th  
June.

154. Having ordered a relief of the army to take place in the present cold season, we mean that the Brigade from Cawnpore shall march down to the Presidency by this road, when we shall be able to ascertain more generally the sense which the officers may entertain of it, and establish on a more solid foundation the experience of its advantages.

155. Before we received any information of the peace we had sold off the horses belonging to the regiments of cavalry, which had been broken by the draft of 300 of the best horses for mounting Sir John Burgoyne's corps of light dragoons at Madras, and we formed the Moguls belonging to them, who were willing to enter the service as infantry, into a separate company. We had likewise reduced the staff of Colonel Pearse's detachment and entrusted to Colonel Charles Morgan the charge of making every possible retrenchment of the weighty disbursements of the detachment, which he has done with the desired success. We have further transmitted him the sentiments of the Commander in Chief on the subject for his guidance and directed him, when he shall set out on his return to this Presidency, to leave his heavy artillery at Surat and to discharge the *sepoys* enlisted on that side of India whose natural residence is there.

Consultation 5th  
May.

Colonel Morgan's  
letter.

21st August.

12th May.

156. In consequence of the proclamation of peace we thought it proper to consult the Commander in Chief, without loss of time on the most eligible means of making further reductions in the heavy military expences of this Presidency, and upon General Stibbert's opinion and recommendation we ordered the regiments of *sepoys* throughout the provinces to be reduced from 1000 to 780 rank and file each, we forbid the promotion of native officers, put an entire stop to the recruiting service for the native corps and dissolved the

24th July.



establishment which was maintained at Bejygur for that purpose. Yet as we thought Bejygur too important a post to be abandoned, because it could so easily be defended, we ordered that it should be garrisoned by a small detachment from Chunar.

157. We at the same time and in conformity to the General's opinion  
 24th July. gave such orders as we thought necessary for the general reduction of the staff of the army. A particular list of which will be found in our consultation noted in the margin.

158. We have also made a reduction of the corps of militia *sepoys*  
 See Revenue Con- which had been entertained for the service of the  
 sultations. collections.

159. The Commander in Chief has proposed to us an alteration in  
 23rd September. the establishment of the army by striking off from the strength of the present brigades the detachments under Colonel Sir John Cummings<sup>3</sup> in the Vizier's dominions and under Colonel Blair at Chunar, and forming them into separate brigades for the express services on which they are now employed. Many and important arrangements appear to us to be necessary for decreasing our military disbursements upon the return of the Bombay and Carnatic detachments, but in the meantime and while we expect the arrival of a Commander in Chief of all the forces in India to succeed to our late General Sir Eyre Coote, whose concurrence may be essential to make such arrangement permanent, we do not think proper to determine upon a subject of this magnitude.

160. A general relief of the army nevertheless appeared to be  
 23rd September. immediately necessary, as the state of the war and other circumstances had prevented the regular accomplishment of it for these two years past, we therefore ordered this part of the General's proposal to be carried into effect without delay.

161. We have received several memorials and remonstrances from  
 24th July. the officers who stand affected by the execution of your orders for reducing those who were supernumerary upon the reformed establishment to the pay of the next inferior rank, all which, as we think it probable they will be quoted to you, we beg leave to point out for your information by marginal references, remarking only that the first letters from the supernumerary majors had allusion to emoluments, which, as we did not rightly comprehend, we desired they would more particularly state or express to us before we could consider their claims upon them. The letter  
 23rd September. from the captains contained a forced construction of your orders and an indecent application founded upon it for the removal of the senior majors from the command of the regiments of *sepoys*, because you had directed the former establishment to be reverted to, and observed upon the alteration of it that you saw no reason why such commands should not have been given to captains. We thought their letter merited

an answer in terms of the above opinion which was accordingly issued to them.

162. We have received repeated representations from the officers of infantry complaining of supercessions by the promotion of younger officers than themselves in the artillery or engineer corps to commissions above them in the army, and *vice versa* from the officers of those corps occasionally complaining of supercessions from infantry officers. But as the rise in each is entirely distinct and independent of the others and must be governed by accident, since vacancies in each ought to be immediately filled up as they occur, we did not conceive it in any instance a hardship, excepting one which affected Captain George Deare of the artillery, who was upon the same service in the Carnatic with and senior to Captains Moore and Hay to whom, at the most pressing instance of General Sir Eyre Coote as he was returning to the Coast, we had granted the local and brevet rank of major. As we informed you in our last letter, we therefore conferred this distinction likewise upon Captain Deare but in the same manner without increase of pay. Captain Hay has relinquished the benefit of his local rank by returning to this establishment.

163. We have before us a more serious and more general remonstrance, and as it is liable to affect your officers upon every service which may now be carried on in India we cannot too earnestly recommend the subject of it to your attention, in the hope that your endeavors may be exerted with success to obtain for them that justice which they solicit, through your means, from the Crown. As the arguments which the Company's officers adduce in support of their pretensions are drawn up with great force although guarded with delicacy we cannot bring their situation more completely before you than by referring to their letter and to a letter from Major Popham, an old King's officer, as illustrating the case in point; and both these papers make numbers in the packet.

164. Upon the same grounds an application was made to us by Colonel Pearse, the commanding officer of our detachment serving in the Carnatic, soliciting to be honored with the brevet rank of brigadier, as a precedent for which the instance of General Goddard was quoted, with the additional arguments arising out of the late rapid promotion of several of the King's officers serving in the Carnatic. We did not however think it proper to comply with the wishes of Colonel Pearse in a matter of this tendency.

165. A special remonstrance has been presented to us from the field officers on this establishment against the admission of Colonel Arthur Owen with rank into the army on the presumption that solicitations would be made by him to obtain it, and desiring our interposition with you to prevent the effect of his application in England. As we think the subject of this memorial deserves to be

recommended to your attention we beg leave to send a copy of it a number in the packet, and to refer you to it.

166. We have received from Major General Sir John Burgoyne<sup>4</sup> two letters of appeal from the acts of the President and Council at Fort St. George, but have thought it necessary to decline our interference in either, or in any differences of that kind, excusing ourselves to him from the want of power to take cognizance of any point concerning only the internal measures and detail of the other Presidencies.

12th June.  
29th July.

167. We have received a petition from the officers who were appointed cadets by you in the year 1769/70, requesting our determination upon their right to be placed above the country cadets of the same year, of whom they enclosed us a list, alledging that you had not passed any decision on the reference of their case which was made to you from this Government so long ago as the year 1776. We informed them that the matter having been specially referred to you the power of redress lay now solely in your hands, but we promised to call your attention to the subject of it, we therefore request that you will be pleased to signify your orders in consequence of the paragraphs of our General Letter.

11th August.

168. We find that several cadets lately come out have produced certificates of their appointments by you, but are not taken notice of in the lists of cadets which you have sent. We were at a loss therefore what rank to assign them, and directed, for the present, that they should stand in the order of their arrival immediately below the lists of cadets appointed in the same season in which their certificates are dated. We request that you will be pleased either to confirm this order or to inform us what rank you had intended to grant them in your original appointment. Their names will be seen in a list which makes a number in the packet.

169. Mr. Bridges Kearney is appointed in your letter of the 12th July 1782, paragraph 66th, to take the place of Mr. Thomas Bouchier in the list of cadets of the preceding season, but no such name appears in that list. We request therefore that you will be pleased to fix the proper rank of Mr. Kearney, for which purpose it may be necessary to observe that he has held a captain's commission in His Majesty's service which, by the rule invariably followed, ought to give him precedence over all the cadets of the year of his appointment, except any who may have been older King's officers than himself. He supposes himself to be a cadet of 1780, and designed for the place of Mr. Thomas Slaughter who is not arrived.

170. Mr. A. Mitchell, appointed by you a cadet on the Madras establishment, and Mr. H. Hamilton, appointed at the same time on this establishment, having mutually desired to change places and the President and Council at Fort St. George

16th June.

having recommended it to our compliance we have accordingly agreed to it.

171. We observe in the list of cadets for last season the name of James Murray twice repeated, and two gentlemen of that name are arrived but as no distinction is made, by which we can tell whom it was your intention to place the first upon the list, we request that you will determine this point in your next advices. One holds a certificate of his appointment dated 19th December 1781; he says he was recommended by Mr. Moffat and came out in the *Royal Henry*. He is now attached to the 1st European Regiment. The other holds a certificate dated 2nd January 1782, came out in the *Calcutta* and is now in the 3rd European Regiment. We have ordered the names and abode of their parents to be ascertained and entered in the Town Major's office for reference when you shall have determined which is to take the precedence.

172. We have fixed it as a rule that no officer shall be promoted from the rank of ensign without serving in that capacity at least 2 years, and then to succeed to lieutenants when vacancies shall happen. As the rise for junior officers will be less rapid than it has been and those of the rank of ensign are constantly attached to the European regiments they may, by this rule, be well qualified in their profession and fit for appointments in the *sepo*y battalions when they become lieutenants.

173. In the late promotions of officers, which we have made in the service, we have been guided by the spirit of your orders in confining the number to the establishment. But in regard to field officers it appeared requisite that such especially should be effective; we must therefore have been under the necessity of passing by those who held staff appointments if we had not promoted them, which would have been unjust, or of depriving them of those appointments for which experience had eminently qualified them, which would have been detrimental to the service if we had promoted them and no others; we therefore proceeded to appoint them and those next in seniority, who could be considered as effective in order to complete the establishment. Our proceedings on this subject are noted in the margin.

174. Having appointed Messrs. Robertson and Scarden to be brevet-lieutenant fire-workers in the corps of artillery and Rice Watkins, late Serjeant Major of the Governor General's troops of body-guard, to be a brevet ensign of infantry we beg leave to refer you to our proceedings for the reasons which gave cause to these appointments, and to acquaint you that we have here closed the list by abolishing the rule for creating such appointments which, as far as regarded the latter instance, had been provided by Sir Eyre Coote's military regulations.



175. Mr. James Wemyss, an old King's officer and adjutant who was formerly in the Company's service under General Wedderburn, having been disappointed in his application to your Court to  
 1st September. be restored and induced to come out without it, has strongly solicited us to give him some military employment here. We have told him in reply that his request was contrary to your express orders, and we could not therefore comply with it.

176. Mr. Feltham has made application to us intreating to be restored to his former rank in the Company's military service. It seems that he had delivered in a similar petition to you  
 Consultation [...] September. whilst he was in England, but that he was driven to the necessity of quitting the kingdom for want of resources for his subsistence before it could be brought to a decision. As we did not conceive ourselves authorized to comply with his request we have promised the recommendation of it to your attention, and therefore send a copy enclosed in this packet.

177. We have permitted Captain John Wemyss, of the artillery, to resign the Company's service and return to England  
 1st September. upon the pension, he having produced the necessary certificates to entitle him to that bounty and taken the oath of qualification.

178. Lieutenant Fireworker Wm. Brickell has resigned the service from a different motive. His conduct was complained  
 24th July. of by his commanding officer and, we understand, was the cause of his application to resign; we therefore mention it to you that he may not be suffered to return.

179. The Military Paymaster General having frequently had claims upon officers who resigned the Company's service to proceed to Europe which after their resignation he found it difficult to recover, and being sometimes ignorant of their intention to leave the country until after it was carried into execution, we at his suggestion have resolved that no officer in future shall obtain leave to resign without producing a certificate from his Paymaster that he has no claims to make upon him.

180. The managers of the fund for the support and education of the orphan children of officers, who belong to this establishment, having undertaken the superintendence and maintenance of  
 15th May. the orphans of soldiers, deceased in your service, upon an allowance of 3 rupees per month for each orphan, which [*sic*] we have agreed to grant them. These children used formerly to be subsisted by the Company, enrolled as soldiers or drummers, and latterly by the private charity of the officers.

181. We have also, at the request of the managers, ordered a piece

of ground to be allotted to them for erecting a proper place for the reception and care of all the children who will be  
 30th June. under their charge. And we have further agreed to make them an advance upon the stoppages, which the officers are to contribute for the support of the establishment, to enable them to undertake the buildings immediately.

182. The lease of the range of buildings in which the junior covenanted servants of the Company upon this establishment are allowed to reside having expired at the end of May, and a continuation of it being offered to us, we have renewed  
 2nd June. it for five years longer upon the same terms as before.

183. Finding it every day more and more necessary from the accumulation of the voluminous records of this Government and the difficulty of collecting, by reference to them, an instant knowledge of the standing rules and orders effecting each particular case or question before us, and considering the necessity of employing an active and laborious person for compiling and arranging them, in the first instance, for such a number  
 22nd May. of years back, we resolved to confer that appointment upon Mr. John Petrie. At the same time considering the long services to the Company of Mr. Fowke who had held an appointment similar to it, since revoked, and his claim to a subsistence, we resolved to continue him the salary of 1,500 rupees per month, which he had formerly drawn, until an opportunity should occur granting him some other more regular provision.

184. The Governor General having recommended to us Mr. George Nesbit Thompson for our appointment of him to be his private or official secretary, and having requested that we would relieve  
 9th June. him from the necessity of employing the gratuitous labours of the gentlemen of his own family upon all occasions of executive business dependant on his station by fixing an adequate salary for the office of his secretary, we desired that he would make choice of his own secretary, and left it to him to grant him such allowance as he might deem equal to the trust.

185. The Governor General having, long previous to this date, received the benefit of Mr. Thompson's services in confidential employments as well before his journey to Benares as during  
 9th June. the course of the troubles at that place, in which he was an equal sharer of the danger and fatigue, as since his return to the Presidency, and deeming him well qualified to fill with credit a station in the Company's service has proposed to us, and we heartily and unanimously join with him in recommending to you, Mr. George Nesbit Thompson to be appointed a writer on the establishment, entreating that you will be pleased to admit him upon the first list which shall be formed after the arrival of this letter.

186. It is proper to inform you that Mr. Thompson possesses your licence for residing here, being the person mentioned in your letters of 1778 as permitted to come out to practice in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

187. A proposal having been made to us by Mr. Francis Gladwin for the publication of a complete translation, from the Persian language, of a book well known by the name of the *Ayeen Akbery*, and this being a work which may prove of the utmost utility to the Company as it contains

the original institutes of the Sultan Akber the founder  
2nd June. of the empire, we resolved, as well on this account as for the promotion of the knowledge of Indian literature, to subscribe in the Company's name for 150 sets of 3 quarto volumes each, at 40 rupees per volume. Soon afterwards Mr. Gladwin finding that objections were

entertained against the payment of so large an amount  
12th June. in our present situation out of the treasury declined to receive the subscription, and consented to leave the matter in reference to you. Impressed with the same favorable opinion of the undertaking in which we originally viewed it we beg leave to recommend it to your consideration, either to make or authorize the subscription we intended on the Company's account.

188. The following of the covenanted servants of the Company upon this establishment have deceased since the date of our last advices, viz., Mr. Samuel Touchet, Joseph Lloyd Harris, James Chollet, James le Gros.

189. Mr. John Sampson also departed this life about the 1st instant,  
6th October. and has been succeeded, in his office of Master Attendant, by Mr. Frederick Doveton the next person of your appointment for that station.

190. Mr. Auriol, our present Secretary, having signified to us his intention of resigning his office we have been induced from the very laborious and accumulated duties which have fallen upon it, in the superintendence and management of the proceedings and business of both the Secret and Public Departments of this Government, to divide so weighty a charge. We have therefore resolved, when his resignation shall take place, to separate the departments and create distinct establishments for

each, the particulars of which will appear by our  
23rd September. minutes referred to in the margin. You will also find that we have resolved to divide the Public and Secret records and to hold our meetings in each department in different houses. Mr. William Bruere has been appointed to succeed as Secretary to the Public Department and Mr. Edward Hay as Secretary to the Secret Department.

191. We cannot lose the services of Mr. Auriol, who has so long, so diligently and so faithfully performed the laborious duties of Secretary to this Government, without expressing our concern at his departure from this country. On this subject we shall do ourselves the honor of addressing you more fully in our next dispatches.

192. Since writing the foregoing part of this letter we have received a memorial signed by the field officers and captains on the establishment and addressed to you, in which they entreat the favor of your intercession and application, by petition to the King or to the Parliament, to obtain for your officers an equality in rank with His Majesty's officers bearing the same commission in any service upon which they might act together. We have already treated on this subject in the 163rd paragraph of this letter and now beg leave to conclude it with recommending this petition to your serious attention, countenance and support.

193. We are sorry to inform you that such an uncommon drought has prevailed for some time past as to threaten many parts of the upper countries with a total failure of the December harvest, and has raged with so much greater severity in its progress to Lahore that multitudes of the inhabitants of the districts beyond the Jumna are already flocking to Lucknow for the means of subsistence, and as that country has likewise suffered its proportion of this calamity, though in a less degree, it is not unlikely that the people we mention will be induced to come down to Bahar. We have ordered encouragement to be given to them for that purpose, both from the humanity of saving them from the inevitable destruction of a famine and the lawful desire, in such case, of increasing the subjects of the Companies [Company's] dominions.

194. The effects of the drought have been felt in some measure even in Bengal. And the general alarm caused by such grounds for apprehending a scarcity of grain has caused the same immediate evil which would attend the actual existance of it, by the refusal of those who possess grain to sell it on any marketable terms.

195. We are persuaded from the superabundance of the crops of last season, from those which have already been gathered as plentifully as usual in the month of August and from those remaining to be gathered in the eastern parts of Bengal, which are properly the rice districts, there will be an ample quantity, with moderate care, to prevent the dreadful effects of a famine and to answer every reasonable demand for it. But to remove the continuance of an artificial scarcity and to promote the equal distribution of grain to those provinces which may stand the most in want of it we have thought it necessary immediately to take off the duties of every kind and to allow of a free communication of trade, from place to place, in this article without the necessity of taking out or producing *rowannas*, and we have denounced the severest punishments against any *chokeydars* or others who should attempt to obstruct it.

196. We have laid an embargo on the exportation of any rice by sea beyond the cargoes actually begun to be laden and the extent of the contracts entered into for the supply of the Presidency of Fort St. George, and which with the assistance they will receive from the Northern Sircars and southern districts will be fully to answer their necessities.

197. For the purpose of enforcing our orders and making such sub-



sidiary regulations as may appear advisable to promote and secure the general good we have appointed four Commissioners to superintend the price, distribution and sale of rice throughout all the provinces dependant on this Government, and in order to guard against any temptation which might be offered to benefit themselves from such a power and equally against the importation of it we have bound them under the most sacred oath to derive no advantages directly or indirectly from their trusts, nor to suffer each other or any person under them to derive any beyond the amount of their established salaries; which for that reason we have fixed at 1,500 rupees per month to each Commissioner, 500 rupees to the first member for an office rent and 1,000 rupees salary to their secretary.

198. Captain Alexander Wynch, of the Madras establishment, being desirous of returning to Europe by the *Nurbudda* and having solicited to be entrusted with the charge of our dispatches, which he is willing to take upon him without any expence to the Company, we have agreed to place them under his care, and he will have the honor of delivering this letter to you.

*Board of Ordnance*

199. Conformable to your desire conveyed to us by the Governor General and Council directing that you be furnished with duplicates of all letters, consultations, accounts, and other papers, transmitted from hence by the ship *Neptune* in May 1781, and by the *Rochford* in September of that year, whose packets were forwarded from Madras in the *Admiral Hughes's* packet, that was unfortunately captured by the enemy near the Western Islands, we have the honor of furnishing you with copies of such of those papers as you have not acknowledged to have received, viz.,

Copy of our proceedings from the 1st September 1780 to the 1st April 1781 with index.

General Ledger Ordnance Department for 1779/80.

General Return of Ordnance and Stores remaining at this Presidency and its subordinates the 30th April 1780.

Indent of articles wanted for the Powder Works dated 27th November 1780.

Indent of military stores for the garrison of Fort William dated the 28th March 1781.

200. You will also please to receive duplicate certificates of stores imported per ships *Hinchinbrooke*, *Blandford*, *Lord Mulgrave*, *Deptford*, *Tarter*, *Major*, *Norfolk*, *Earl of Chesterfield*, *Worcester*, *Hawke*, *Dutton* and *Warren Hastings*, with duplicate accounts of short deliveries of military stores shipped on the *Major*, *Norfolk*, *Nottingham* and *Worcester*. Also certificates of stores imported by the ships *Kent*, *General Coote* and *Montagu*, with an account [of] short deliveries per said ships.

201. We have the honor to transmit copy of our proceedings from

the 1st November 1781 to the 1st July 1783, with indexes. Also copy General Ledger Ordnance Department for 1781/2 and a General Return of the Ordnance and Military Stores which remained in the several magazines, and that were attached to the corps composing the army on this establishment, the 30th April 1782, with an indent for military stores required for the garrison of Fort William dated 17th October 1783.

202. The state of our treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	24,766	4	1	
Khalsah	...	...	10,537	4	2	
						35,303 8 3

Bills receivable

General Treasury						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	50,000	0	0	58,000	0	0
Khalsah do.	2,28,923	6	3	2,65,550	11	3
						3,23,550 11 3

Mint

General Treasury	...	...	1,45,511	15	5	
Khalsah	...	...	...			
						1,45,511 15 5

Unsorted treasure

Khalsah from Burdwan	...	...	4,505	5	0	
Pilly Mahls	...	...	17,840	0	0	

22,345 5 0

Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees 24,579 13 6

Current rupees 5,28,946 0 5

Balance account deposits	...	...	7,75,821	6	10	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertisement	...	...	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	...	1,65,92,878	15	0	
11 per cent remittance loan	...	...	33,67,360	0	0	
Annuities	...	...	45,920	0	0	

2,09,47,259 4 3

We have the honor to be,  
Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants.

Fort William,  
the 23rd October 1783.

LETTER DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1783

*Despatch of ships*

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] Our dispatches per *Nerbudda* were so full, and are so recent, that by the *Rodney*, now under sailing orders, we shall only forward the duplicate of our letter of the 23rd ultimo, from this Department.

[2] The *Winterton* and *Worcester* will be dispatched in a few days, by the former we shall transmit you our broken set of proceeding of this month.

[3] The amount of the *Rodney's* invoice is current rupees 16,56,500.

Fort William,  
the 24th November 1783.

We have the honor to be,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.

LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1783

*Plan to check foreign competition in the provision of Company's investment and in its sale in Europe—measures to check desertion of petty officers from ships—Madras complains of the bad quality and insufficient quantity of stores sent to it—general embargo on the exportation of rice—establishment of granaries at Patna—reports of a good winter harvest in East Bengal—merits of Doctor Daniel Campbell—Sir Elijah Impey leaves for England with his family.*

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We now dispatch the *Winterton*, Captain Snow, which ship will sail in company with the *Worcester*; by the former we transmit you, from

this Department, our broken set of proceedings from the dispatch of the *Nerbudda* to this period.

2. The Board of Trade, in a letter dated the 28th ultimo which is recorded in the consultation noted in the margin, represented to us that there would be seven cargoes wanting to compleat the lading of all your chartered ships now here; and to prevent the detention of that quantity of tonnage for a season in the country at a very heavy expence, suggested a plan of making purchases of cotton and silk piece goods and such weighable articles (except saltpetre) as may be judged proper for the Europe market, by draft of the treasury in favor of the seller bearing an interest of 8 per cent and payable in twelve months, either in ready money or by bills of exchange upon you.

Consultation 5th  
November.

3. Although we very much approved the general proposition contained in their letter we were of opinion that it merited a more extensive consideration and application than they have given it, and therefore did not agree to the mode proposed of paying for the goods by drafts on you, as in our judgement it would be the means of establishing a partial remittance, which would rest alone in the hands of those persons who possessed goods fit for the Europe market. We, however, authorized them to make the purchases recommended, and accordingly issued an order on the treasury in their favor for fifty lacks of current rupees.

Consultation 5th  
November.

4. To enable the treasury to answer this demand, and that the plan may be as general and as extensive in its effects as possible, we resolved to keep the treasury open till the 1st February, to which time all persons have liberty to pay in such sums as they may think proper, at the usual exchange of 2 shillings and one penny per current rupees.

Consultation 5th  
November.

5. The bills to be granted on the first of February 1785, and made payable 365 days after sight with an option reserved to you to extend the term of payment to one, two or three years longer, allowing an interest of five per cent per annum upon the period of such extention.

6. Another powerful inducement for adopting this plan was our knowledge of fourteen foreign ships being at this time in the river, and more daily expected, all of which, we understood, were to take in cargoes for the Europe market. The interruption that so considerable a demand for goods would create in the provision of the Company's investment, if allowed to take effect, is obvious, but independant of this we apprehend that individuals, notwithstanding the promulgation of the Act of Parliament, would clandestinely furnish money for bills [on] Europe as foreigners rather than suffer their ships to sail from this port empty, would no doubt be induced to offer the most favorable terms to those who had money to remit.

5th November.



7. By opening our treasury for the receipt of money we are in hopes that we shall effect two objects of very great importance to the Company's interest, 1st, that of dispatching the greatest part of the chartered ships, now here, which must otherwise lye at a very heavy expence, and secondly, prevent a very large sum of money from going into the hands of foreigners, and thereby prevent them from vieing with us in the provision of our investment and of becoming competitors to you in the sale of it in Europe, as well as discourage them from all future attempts of this kind.

8. Having received several tenders of saltpetre from individuals we refered them to the Board of Trade for their opinion on the expediency of purchasing it on account, the Company; to their reply recorded in the Consultation of the 24th instant we beg leave to refer you and have for the reasons therein setforth resolved to take off the embargo on it, but, as this in its consequences, may have a prejudicial effect to the Company's interest in their exclusive right to manufacture this article in the provinces of Bengal and Bahar, we have proclaimed that if any one shall be detected in manufacturing it, but for the Company, the whole shall be confiscated.

9. Captain Snow having applied to the Board of Trade for fifty tons of surplus tonnage they desired our opinion as to the propriety of granting his request, and having considered the number of ships which are here we informed them that we did not think they ought to put on board his ship any surplus tonnage.

10. All the commanders of your ships have applied for the sum of 200£stg. stipulated by charterparty to be paid monthly, but the state of the treasury not admitting this sum to be issued we were obliged to refer them to you for the payment of that, which hitherto had been paid in Europe, unless they chose to receive treasury drafts which were transferable; most of them we believe will prefer the latter.

11. We have the pleasure to inform you that the *Resolution* quitted her pilot on the 20th October, the *Nerbudda* on the 18th November and the *Warren Hastings*, *Nassau* and *Southampton* imported here the 29th, 31st October and 9th November.

12. The President and Council of Bombay having requested to be supplied with 10,000 bags of saltpetre this season, and Captain Gore having offered to convey it on the *Nassau*, we complied with his solicitation as the freight saved by putting on board his ship the charterparty tonnage will in a great degree compensate for the demurrage which that ship will receive for the voyage. Another reason for this is the fear we have that all your ships, now in the river, cannot be loaded before the time limited by

charterparty, notwithstanding every exertion and every aid in our power will be afforded to the Board of Trade to enable them to effect it.

13. The *Busbridge*, Captain Tod, having received on board half a cargo was dispatched on the 17th November to fill up at Fort St. George, and on the same day we dispatched the *Earl of Chesterfield*, Captain Boswell, with her charterparty tonnage of rice and stores to be landed at Mangalore in his way to Bombay, agreeably to the original destination of that ship.

Consultation 17th November.

14. Captain Boswell having represented to us that his late Chief Officer, Mr. Thomas Lee, had run from the *Chesterfield* we have ordered him to return to England by the earliest opportunity, and shall compel him to quit this settlement if he does not comply with this order. We cannot however help observing that the frequent desertion of the sworn and petty officers of your ships demands an immediate remedy, and must recommend you to make examples of such as have quitted their ships before they have performed their respective voyages, by not suffering them to enter again into your service, or by exacting the penalties from their securities for breach of their engagements.

Consultation 10th November.

15. Captain Gore having represented that the conduct of his second officer, Mr. George Bye, had compelled him to suspend him from doing duty we have ordered a court of enquiry, consisting of five commanders, to investigate his complaint.

Consultation 5th November.

16. On the 10th November we received a letter from Captain Lennox representing that the *Southampton* was in a leaky condition, and requesting our permission to bring his ship to town to be hove down and repaired; we therefore, as the *Southampton* was not in a state to receive the Company's cargo on board, dismissed her from your service on that day.

Consultation 10th November.

17. In the consultation noted in the margin are several letters from the President and Council of Fort St. George complaining, among other things, of the bad quality of the supplies sent them, of the deficiencies in those supplies and of their losses in the recoinage of bullion which they received by the *St. Carlos* and *Resolution*, which we had taken every precaution in our power to prevent.

10th November.

18. The reply to the charge of the bad quality of the stores sent is recorded in our Proceedings of the 24th November, and to it we beg leave to call your particular attention, being fully satisfied on such proofs, as we believe will be equally convincing to you, that the late Agent of Supplies did every thing in his power to furnish the best stores and at the most reasonable rates. In regard to the bullion we have not yet received the reply of our Mint Master on this subject, but shall transmit it to you by an early opportunity.

19. We shall not comment on the return which we have received for our endeavours and unremitted exertions to relieve the distresses of the settlement of Fort St. George in this place, as we have been very full in our letter from the Political Department, and therefore refer you to that letter.

20. In our address of the 23rd ultimo, we advised you of the measures we had adopted in consequence of a scarcity of grain, caused by the uncommon drought which had prevailed in the upper provinces for some time past, and of the appointment of a committee for the purpose of superintending the sale, distribution and price of grain.

21. This committee, consisting of Messrs. Thomas Graham, George Cumming, George Templer and Thomas Law, assembled on the 21st ultimo, and after obtaining the fullest information, Consultation 5th November. so short a period would admit, respecting the August harvest and the state of the December crops reported the same to us. They also reported the tonnage secured for the exportation of grain, which appears by their letter to be upwards of eleven hundred thousand maunds.

22. As the exportation of so large a quantity of rice would deprive us of the means of subsisting near nine hundred thousand men for the space of three months, which may be estimated as the Consultation 5th November. probable duration of the scarcity should a famine actually exist, of which there were more threatening appearances than ever from the apprehended failure of the December crop, we resolved to make the embargo on the exportation of rice by sea general and total, accordingly published it to the whole settlement and revoked our resolution admitting a free exportation beyond the provinces.

23. At this time the *Hastings* (Captain Jameson), *Busbridge* and *Earl of Chesterfield* lay loaded and ready for sea. Each of these ships had on board rice which the commanders represented could not be relanded without occasioning great detention in their departure, as well as great loss to themselves. The *Hastings* had on board twelve thousand bags which Captain Jameson was carrying down to Fort St. George in virtue of his contract, the *Busbridge* five thousand bags, and the *Chesterfield* nearly that quantity, a great part of which belongs to the Company and was put on board long ago to be landed for the garrison of Mangalore.

24. After taking the particular situation of these ships into consideration, for all of them were actually loaded previous to the embargo, we resolved that they should be exempt from it on condition that Captain Jameson bound himself to deliver, upon oath, every bag that went in his ship at his contract rate to the President and Council of Fort St. George. Captain Tod engaged, in like manner, to deliver all his at the market price and Captain Boswell has also pledged himself to land for the

Company every bag he may have in his ship at Mangalore or Bombay, charging them the market price for such as is his property.

25. However desirous we are, at all times, to avert the distresses of the inhabitants of the Carnatic we were compelled to make the embargo general. Had we permitted even the contractors to export their contract quantity, foreigners and the merchants of the settlement would have had reason to complain, but a still more powerful motive with us was the distressed situation to which the inhabitants of our own provinces would be reduced, were we to permit so large a quantity as one million one hundred thousand maunds to be exported; the Committee of Grain were of opinion that this could not be done without a hazard of exposing to the last extremity of want the lives of so many persons as could be subsisted by it.

26. At the recommendation of the Committee of Grain we have  
5th November. authorized them to establish granaries at Patna and in other parts of the country, and have desired them to make the necessary arrangements in consequence.

27. We are happy at having it in our power thus early to acquaint you that by advices recently received the reports respecting the December crop are very favorable from many parts of Bengal but particularly from the eastward of the Ganges. The north division of the province of Bahar is likely to produce a sufficiency of grain for the consumption of its own inhabitants. We hope therefore that, by the timely interposition of our authority, we have in a great degree prevented the fatal effects of scarcity. Indeed the first effects of the above have totally subsided, and the markets are everywhere plentifully supplied at rates which the people can easily afford, and this was brought to pass instantaneously on the first regulations which were issued for that purpose.

28. By the embargo the contractors as well as all the rice merchants must be very great sufferers, and the former are without doubt entitled to an indemnification from us. We therefore recommended to the Committee of Grain to devise some equitable mode of relief and to report the same to us for our correction, of which we shall advise you by a future opportunity when the whole is finally adjusted.

29. Having, in obedience to your commands, called upon the attornies to Mr. Barwell to deliver up the lease of his house we have the pleasure to acquaint that they immediately complied with our requisition.

30. We are sorry to inform you of the death of Major Benjamin Wroe and of Mr. Alexander Duncanson one of your civil servants.

31. Since the close of the dispatches per *Nerbudda* Major E. Baillie,  
13th November. Captains A. Park and George Mence have resigned your military service; and we beg leave to refer you to the consultations noted in the margin for the opinion the Commander in Chief has of the merits of these officers.



32. We have appointed the following gentlemen Assistant Surgeons upon this establishment, viz., William Fontance, George Bingham and Murdock Fergusson, they having previously to their appointment undergone the usual examination and the Surgeon General having reported them duly qualified.

33. Doctor Daniel Campbell your Surgeon General, having on account of his affairs in Europe and of his bad state of health, solicited our permission to resign the service and to proceed to Europe we have granted his request, and he accordingly takes his passage on the *Worcester*.

34. Two petitions have been just delivered to us bearing the signature of most of the inhabitants of this community and of the surgeons in and near Calcutta in testimony of the great merits of Doctor Campbell, and requesting us to convey to you their united wishes that he may be permitted to return to the service and to the station which he holds in it. We also, the members of your administration, who have all individually benefited by his professional skill nor less by the benevolence which marks his attendance on all ranks of people in this settlement, beg leave to unite our request to the same effect. We forward copies of these petitions numbers in the packet for your more particular information.

35. Messrs. Ducarell Holland, and Baugh having requested our permission to resign the Honourable Company's service we have complied with their request. The former has taken his passage on the *Winterton* and the latter on the *Worcester*.

36. Sir Elijah Impey has also desired to have an order for himself and family to be accommodated with a passage on the *Worcester*, which has been accordingly issued.

37. In our address of the 23rd ultimo, we apprized you of the application which had been made to us by Mr. Auriol, our Secretary, to be permitted to resign the service and to return to England. He has now applied for and obtained our leave to take passage on this ship. The necessity which has impelled him to this resolution is described in his letter addressed to us on the 10th of September, and we cheerfully yield our testimony both to the truth of his representation and to the long, assiduous and able services which he has continued to render us, earnestly recommending him to your countenance and favor.

38. In consequence of the orders contained in your letter of the 8th of February 1781 regarding the sale of a number of Major Rennell's Bengal Atlases which you sent to us by the ships of that season, we beg leave to inform you that they have all been disposed of accordingly and the produce of the sales, amounting to current rupees 9,590-14-0, deposited in your treasury.

39. The state of the treasury is this day as follows:

Ready money						
General Treasury	...	...	38,835	2	7	
Khalsah	...	...	11,949	9	8	
				<hr/>		
						47,784 12 3
Bills receivable						
General Treasury						
Sicca rupees	50,000	0 0	58,000	0	0	
Khalsah ... do.	1,04,192	8 9	1,20,863	5	9	
				<hr/>		
						1,78,863 5 9
Mint						
General Treasury	...	...				1,45,511 15 5
Khalsah	...	...	...			...
Unsorted treasure						
Khalsah from Bissenpore 1,000						
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees						1,100 0 0
				<hr/>		
				Current rupees		3,73,260 1 5
Balance account deposits				...	6,66,529	5 2
Do. Accomptant Genl. to the						
Mayor's Court				...	1,20,161	13 9
Do. of the old bonded debt on						
which the interest has ceased						
by public advertisement				...	45,117	0 8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent				...	1,65,92,878	15 0
11 per cent remittance loan				...	33,67,310	0 0
Annuities				...	45,920	0 0
				<hr/>		
						2,08,37,967 2 7

Fort William,  
29th November 1783.

We are etc.

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## LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1783

*Governor General's testimonials for Middleton and Markham, former Residents at Oudh and Benares—appreciation of Colonel Owen's services.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We now dispatch the *Barwell*, *Atlas*, *Norfolk* and *Belmont* with

compleat cargoes according to the accompanying invoices, amounting to, viz.,

Per <i>Barwell</i>	...	...	...	...	14,43,900
<i>Atlas</i>	...	...	...	...	14,07,500
<i>Norfolk</i>	...	...	...	...	13,54,000
<i>Belmont</i>	...	...	...	...	14,08,700

Total. Current rupees 56,14,100

2. Lady Coote having desired that the *Belmont* might be ordered to call at Fort St. George for the purpose of conveying her and her suite to England, we have complied with her desire, both in testimony of the high sense we shall ever retain of the important services rendered by your late Commander in Chief and the great esteem we have for Lady Coote.

3. In a few days the *Ceres*, *Talbot* and *Halsewell* will sail, by these ships we shall send you our proceedings from our last dispatches up to the period of their departure.

4. The *Winterton* and *Worcester* quitted their pilots on the 10th instant.

5. Messrs. Nathaniel Middleton<sup>1</sup>, John Charles Middleton<sup>2</sup> and William Markham<sup>3</sup> having desired our permission to resign the Honourable Company's service we have accordingly granted them permission, and they proceed to England by the ships now under dispatch.

6. Mr. Nathaniel Middleton has requested to be mentioned to you respecting his conduct and services previous to his removal from Owde; and the Governor General having given in a minute conveying his approbation of both to that period, we beg leave to refer you to it, and to add our favorable opinion of his abilities and temper.

7. We also beg leave to refer you to the minute, delivered in by the Governor General, respecting Mr. Markham for the testimony he gives of the sense and knowledge he has of his merits; whom he declares to have transacted the business of the late trust, assigned him at Benares, with exactness, integrity, fidelity and diligence, in which we all concur.

8. The following officers have requested our permission to resign the service and proceed to England for the purposes mentioned in their different letters, recorded on our proceedings, viz., Major Balfour<sup>4</sup>, Captains Gordon, Park, Kirkpatrick<sup>5</sup>, Heard, Denty, Baker and Lieutenant Camac.

9. We must refer you to the different letters from the Commander in Chief, containing his sentiments of the merits of these officers, and particularly to those respecting Major Balfour and Captain Kirkpatrick,

of whom we also entertain a very favorable opinion; we consider them able officers deserving your attention.

10. We transmit, separate numbers in this packet, copy of a letter from the Commander in Chief and an address to him from your officers on this establishment, soliciting his recommendation of the petitions forwarded numbers in the packet per *Nerbudda*, and to which we repeat our request for your particular attention and support.

11. Colonel Owen has obtained our permission to proceed to England on the *Bellmont*, and as we cannot pass over the merits of this officer unnoticed we beg leave to call your attention to the high sense Sir Eyre Coote has so repeatedly expressed in his letters to us of the importance of Colonel Owen's very active services to the Company during the late arduous campaign in the Carnatic, and we beg leave to recommend him to your favor.

### *Board of Ordnance*

12. We have the honor to transmit you herewith duplicate indent for military stores required for the garrison of Fort William, dated 17th October 1783.

13. The state of the treasury is this day as follows:

#### Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	47,205	11	11	
Khalsah	...	...	32,904	6	3	
			<hr/>			80,110 2 2

#### Bills receivable

General Treasury						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	1,23,302	0	0	1,43,830	5	2
Khalsah						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	46,426	8	5	53,854	12	3
				<hr/>		1,96,885 1 5

#### Mint

General Treasury	...	...	1,45,511	15	5	
Khalsah	...	...	...			
			<hr/>			1,45,511 15 5



Unsorted treasure

Khalsah

From Burdwan 4,652 0 0  
Bissenpore 100 0 0

---

Rupees 4,752 10 10

Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees 5,227 14 9

---

Current rupees 4,27,735 1 9

Balance account deposits	...	7,63,411 10 4
Do. Accomptant General to the		
Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161 13 9
Do. of the old bonded debt on		
which the interest has ceased		
by public advertisement	...	45,117 0 8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	16,599,178 15 0
11 per cent remittance loan	...	33,67,360 0 0
Annuities	...	45,920 0 0
		<hr/> 2,09,41,149 7 9
Diminution on the deposits this week		6,631 5 5

Fort William,  
30th December 1783.

We have the honor to be etc.

15

## LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 1784

*Copy of the Proceedings of the Governor General in Council lost in the Sir Edward Hughes packet—Mr. Dacres, President of the Board of Trade, resigns.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] Our last advices, under date 30th ultimo, were by the *Atlas*, *Barwell*, *Norfolk* and *Belmont*, which ships left their pilots on the 10th instant.



## Unsorted treasure

## Khalsah

From Beerbhoom 1,000 0 0

Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees 1,100 0 0

Current rupees 4,04,323 6 10

Balance account deposits	...	7,12,623	3	9
Do. Accomptant General to the				
Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9
Do. of the old bonded debt on				
which the interest has ceased				
by public advertisement	...	45,117	0	8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,66,22,778	15	0
11 per cent remittance loan	...	33,67,360	0	0
Annuities	...	45,920	0	0
				2,09,13,961 1 3
Increase on the deposits this week	...	6,978	5	6

Fort William,  
19th January 1784.

[We have the honor to be etc.]

16

## LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1784

*Rules regarding reversionary posts in the Board of Trade—measures to avert famine in Madras Presidency—compensation paid to merchants affected by embargo on grain—Ritchie to make a survey of the Coromandel Coast—a school for mathematics established at Calcutta.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. You were advised in our letter of the 19th January that the *Ceres*, *Talbot* and *Halswell* were then under dispatch, with cargoes according to their invoices, amounting in all to current rupees forty lacks seventy

seven thousand three hundred and fifty, C.Rs. 40,77,350; and we are happy to inform you that these ships got safe out and quitted their pilots on the 3rd instant.

2. The *Lord Macartney* (now ready to receive her dispatches) has on board a cargo as per invoice, amounting to (C.Rs. 11,07,790) eleven lacs seven thousand seven hundred and ninety.

3. By this ship we have the honor to transmit you our broken set of proceedings in this Department for December.

4. In the consultation noted in the margin a protest from Captain Wakeman of the *Rodney* is recorded for deficient tonnage; and in the same consultation you will observe a letter from our 4th December. Agent for dispatching the Honourable Company's ships, stating that the stores for the island of St. Helena "were not on board the *Rodney* when he arrived with her, nor would the ship's draught of water admit of their being taken in at Kedgerie". We are therefore of opinion that Captain Wakeman should be answerable for all losses that may arise to the Company from his refusal to receive on board the *Rodney* her charterparty tonnage.

5. Taking into consideration the number of ships, now here, waiting for cargoes, the little prospect there is of tonnage being provided for all of them, and the great expence to which the Company would be put on account of demurrage if the whole were not dispatched this season, we resolved to send the *Vansittart*, being the last on the list, to Bencoolen; the President and Council there having written very pressingly for many stores, which will be forwarded to them by this conveyance. The saving of freight thereon will in some measure compensate for the loss the Company would otherwise sustain, on account of demurrage, by the detention of the *Vansittart* one year in India.

6. The same motive which induced us to dispatch the *Vansittart* to Bencoolen compelled us to order only two thirds of a cargo to be put on board the *Pigot*, that this ship might fill up at Madrass understanding that the President and Council there had more tonnage than the *Busbridge* could take in; and Captain Morgan will accordingly sail in a few days.

7. The *Southampton* having been repaired and reported fit to receive the Honourable Company's investment this ship was again taken into the service on the [.....]

8. The following ships still remain in the river to be dispatched to Europe direct, viz., *Fox*, nearly laden, *Warren Hastings*, *Earl of Oxford*, *Southampton*, *Major* and *Besborough*.

9. They will be dispatched in the order in which they stand, and we are yet hopeful that the Board of Trade will be able to load both the



*Warren Hastings* and *Earl of Oxford* within the time limited by charter-party for their leaving this port.

10. In the consultation noted in the margin there is recorded a letter from Mr. Nl. Bateman, who you had restored to the service and appointed to succeed to the Board of Trade.  
 10th December. This gentleman sets forth the sufferings he experienced during the voyage to India, his long detention at Trincomalay, by which he was prevented from succeeding to the Board of Trade, and the hardships he laboured under at this time, being out of office, without any salary or advantage whatever.

11. Having maturely considered this representation we agreed to make it a standing rule that all servants of the Company appointed to reversionary stations in the Board of Trade should be allowed to draw the salaries, which they would be entitled to, were they members of that Board, until we receive your commands on this subject. And we were induced to adopt this measure as we think it not only conformable to strict justice and general practise but necessary in good policy, though seemingly forbidden by your restrictive order. For if persons returning to your service at an advanced time of life are to wait (as may be the case) for years till a vacancy shall happen in the Board of Trade, before they can benefit by your orders for the admission to it, and at once to succeed to stations and trusts of the highest consequence to the Company's interest, and requiring the strictest integrity in the discharge of them, the temptation to which they may be driven by the accumulation of distress (drawn on them by so great a length of time passed in extensive expectations, without any allowed means of subsistence) must have a natural tendency to introduce the habits of corruption and embezzlement into the service, unless it be supposed, in opposition to universal experience, that all men, or mankind in general, are possessed of a principle of virtue, which is proof against the calls of nature or the terrors of a goal.

12. The excessive drought throughout these provinces and the consequent alarming prospect of a famine having obliged us to annul the contracts, we had entered into for supplying the Presidency of Fort St. George with grain, and to lay a general embargo on the exportation of that article (of which you have been repeatedly informed in all our late letters) and our apprehensions of the extreme distress to which the inhabitants of the Carnatic might be exposed made it the object of our very anxious deliberations to attempt every measure which could afford a prospect of obviating or at least of alleviating it.  
 Consultation 1st December.

13. The Governor General having laid before us a plan for procuring rice from the island of Java, with the permission and assistance of the General and Council of Batavia, we highly approved this suggestion and resolved immediately to attempt its execution.

14. We in consequence dispatched Captain Murray with the

*Intelligence* schooner to Batavia, with letters to the General and Council containing our earnest request that they would afford us the supply required and that they would appoint such agents, for this purpose, as they should deem necessary, to whom a commission of 5 per cent should be allowed in addition to the prescribed rates, which we left to their decision, proposing that immediate payment should be made either to such agents as should be deputed to receive possession of the Dutch East India Company's factories in Bengal, or by our sending silver or opium to Batavia at their option.

15. We acquainted the Presidency of Fort St. George with our anxiety on their account, in consequence of the necessity we had been under of withholding their expected supplies, and of the application we had made to the Government of Batavia, and we directed Captain Murray to return with all possible expedition to Fort St. George with their answer that should it prove a favorable one no time might be lost in dispatching such ships as could be got ready for that purpose, to convey the grain to Fort St. George.

16. You have already been informed of the measures we had thought it necessary to adopt in order to avert as much as possible the effects of the famine, with which we were threatened, and of our appointment of a Committee of Grain, with very extensive powers, for this purpose. And we are happy to inform you that these exertions have had so good an effect that, although the scarcity has not been entirely removed, the alarm of the natives has in a great measure subsided, and we have every reason to expect that in a short time plenty will be again established throughout the provinces.

17. We referred the adjustment of the contractors' accounts to the Committee of Grain, that they might determine the compensation equitably due to each. They accordingly transmitted to us accounts current between the Honourable Company and the principal contractors, as recorded in the consultation noted in the margin, to which we beg leave to refer for your more particular information on this subject.

Consultation 1st  
December.

18. From these accounts and from the estimates of private merchants the Committee calculated the average rate of shipping and re-landing grain at this port, in order to determine the compensation which justice required should be made to such individuals as had actually shipped grain, but were prevented from exporting it by the embargo.

19. This calculation was made with the most minute exactness, and the average expence computed at 50 rupees per 100 bags, or 8 annas for each bag. We agreed therefore to make this allowance to such individuals as had laden their grain and were obliged to re-land it, the truth of which was verified by each of them on oath. The sum paid on this account, and a list of such persons as received the indemnification, is recorded in our proceedings last quoted, to which we again request leave to refer you.

20. The Committee of Grain having likewise represented to us that in consequence of the very large quantity of grain to be delivered to them by the several contractors *golahs* would be necessary for its reception, we authorized them to erect such temporary buildings as would be absolutely required, but enjoined the strictest frugality not only in constructing these buildings but in every expense attending the reception and care of the grain committed to their charge.

21. We beg leave to request your particular attention to a minute of the Governor General, recorded in the consultation noted in the margin [*sic*], containing a proposal that buildings of solid masonry should be constructed to serve the purposes of perpetual granaries to the two provinces.

22. The reasoning contained in the first part of the Governor General's minute operated on our minds with the force of compleat conviction from our recent experience of the certainty of the fact on which it is founded and though our determination to avoid as much as possible every expence militated strongly against our undertaking a project of such magnitude, the object of the plan, that of securing the inhabitants of these extensive provinces from the dreadful calamity of famine in future, appeared to us of so great consequence that we could not withhold our concurrence in a measure which, in the immediate though partial execution of it, would be attended but with an inconsiderable present expence.

23. We accordingly adopted a plan, recommended to us by the Chief Engineer, for the erection of a circular building at Patna for the purposes mentioned in the Governor General's minute, and appointed Captain Garstin of the engineer corps to execute it, under the orders of the Committee of Grain, allowing him, for the reward of his labor, a commission of ten per cent on the estimated sum, and a further commission of ten per cent between the actual cost to which he may be able to reduce it and the amount of the estimate.

24. We received a letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George acquainting us that they had not been able to find a person capable of executing, in a satisfactory manner, your  
22nd December. orders, that surveys of particular places on the Coast should be made, and desiring that we would direct Mr. Ritchie, our Sea Surveyor, to proceed to Madras for this purpose.

25. We accordingly directed Mr. Ritchie to prepare to proceed on  
22nd December. a survey of the Coromandle coast after having completed the survey of Cudjong, in which he was then employed by our orders.

26. General Stibbert having sent in an address from Lieutenant Colonel Watson, your Chief Engineer, recommending the establishment  
1st December. of a mathematical school in Fort William for the benefit of the officers of the Engineer Corps, and deeming this an object of great public utility we agreed to

the proposed plan; and the appointment of Mr. Burrow to be master of the school has accordingly taken place. His allowances were fixed at five hundred *sicca* rupees per mensem. We cannot however close this paragraph without requesting your attention to the Chief Engineer's letter on the subject which we consider particularly deserving your notice.

27. Ensign William Mercer has represented to us that in 1780 he received your permission to proceed to India, was taken prisoner by the combined fleets and sent back to England, that in 1781 he received your orders to embark on the *Mulgrave* but was detained eight months in England in consequence of a proposal for raising a company for service in India, and that his name is omitted in your general list. We request therefore to be informed at what time this gentleman received from you his appointment of cadet, in order that his rank in the service may be ascertained.

28. The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

#### Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	34,619	8	10	
Khalsah	...	...	37,660	2	4	
						<hr/>
						72,279 11 2

#### Bills receivable

General Treasury						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	50,000	0	0	58,000	0	0
Khalsah						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	2,37,009	5	2	2,74,930	7	3
						<hr/>
						3,32,930 7 3

#### Mint

General Treasury				1,45,511	15	5
Khalsah	...	...	...	...		
						<hr/>
						1,45,511 15 5

#### Unsorted treasure

##### Khalsah

From Burdwan	7,631	0	10			
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees	...			8,097	2	2
						<hr/>
Current rupees	...			5,58,819	4	0

Balance accounts deposits	...			8,69,616	2	5
Do. Accomptant General to the						
Mayor's Court	...	...		1,20,161	13	9



Balance of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public adver- tisement ... ..	45,117	0	8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent ...	1,66,67,656	5	8
4 per cent remittance loan ...	33,67,360	0	0
Annuities ... ..	45,920	0	0
	<hr/>		
		2,11,15,831	6 6

Fort William,  
9th February 1784.

We have the honor to be  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.

17

## LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1784

*Friendly relations to be established with the King of Acheen—Paymaster General appointed for troops serving beyond the Karamnasa—retrenchment to be made in the Bombay Detachment on its return to Bengal.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The last letter we addressed you from this Department was per *Lord Macartney*, under date the 9th instant; by the *Fox* we have now the honor of transmitting you our annual set of proceedings for last year, and the broken set from the 1st to the 22nd ultimo.

2. The amount of the *Fox's* invoice is current rupees 13,71,985-0-0.

3. We are sorry to inform you that we have received a letter from Captain Tolme, dated Columbo Roads 10th December, acquainting us that the *Resolution*, under his command, had on the 1st of November suffered severely by a violent gale of wind, in which she lost some of her masts, and was otherwise so much disabled as to be towed to Columbo by one of the French frigates of a squadron he fell in with off Point de Gale, under the command of Monsieur Du Pigny, who had offered to send the *Bellona* to tow the ship to Bombay, which offer Captain Tolme had accepted, and intended to sail on the 14th of December in order to dock and repair the *Resolution*, which we hope he will effect early enough to proceed to England this season.

Consultation 19th  
January.

4. In our letter of the 23rd October, per *Nerbudda*, we informed you that in consequence of the publication of your licence to individuals to send home raw silk in the Company's chartered ships in 1784/5, we  
 5th January. had received a notification of a design to make use of it, to the extent of two tons, since that period several applications have been made to us, as recorded in the consultation noted in the margin, and we have been induced from the representations of the Board of Trade, and the want of investment to complete the lading of all the ships here, to grant this licence for the present season.

5. In consequence of the instructions from your Secret Committee under date the 8th of December 1781, a letter to the King of Acheen accompanied with suitable presents were on the 2nd September 1782, (as  
 19th January. you have been informed from the Secret Department) prepared and entrusted to Mr. Botham, one of the members of the Council of Bencoolen. The report of this gentleman explains the result of his endeavors, which is recorded in the consultation noted in margin.

6. In the same consultation you will observe a minute delivered in by the Governor General on this subject, and a motion from him for  
 19th January. Mr. Joseph Yorke Kinlock to be appointed our Commercial Resident at Acheen, which we agreed to; and that gentleman will shortly proceed to his station. The motives which induced us to make this appointment are so fully stated in the Governor General's minute, above quoted, that we beg leave to refer you to it.

7. Conformably to your commands contained in the 17th paragraph of your letter of the 1st March 1783, we have appointed Mr. John Wombwell Paymaster General to all the troops serving beyond the Caramnassa, with the single exception of the garrison of Chunar. The embarrassments which would attend an alteration in the mode of paying this garrison induced us to continue it under the present regular payment by the Paymaster to all the garrisons.

8. The accounts of a very considerable part of the army being, by this alteration, removed to a distant station, and in consequence their transmission to the Presidency (to go through the regular forms of official investigation) necessarily delayed, an evil seemed likely to arise from it, by which the Company have, in former instances, very severely suffered; that of large balances remaining against the Paymasters for sums retrenched from their disbursements, which a delay in auditing their accounts frequently puts it out of their power to recover by the intermediate death or removal of officers. The loss must consequently either fall unjustly upon them or be ultimately borne, as has been recently the case, by the Company.

9. To obviate this inconvenience as well as to render your order complete in its effect, and consistant with the general principles and usages of your service, we resolved that an office, corresponding to that of the Paymaster General to the troops serving beyond the Caramnassa,

should be constituted for the purpose of auditing on the spot the accounts of that part of the army. The disbursements by this means undergoing a regular and immediate audit, the retrenchments (which would be communicated without any delay to the several paymasters) would be recovered without difficulty, and leave them no pretence for retaining a balance in their hands, which it has been our most positive injunction to the Paymaster General not to suffer them to hold on any account whatsoever.

10. We deemed it a respectful submission to your commands, signified in the 2nd paragraph of your letter of the 17th May 1780, to appoint Mr. John Scawen to the charge of this office, and we have accordingly directed him to remain in charge of it until the office of Commissary General shall be vacant. And he shall be entitled to hold it by regular succession, according to the terms of your orders.

11. For the duties which we have annexed to the offices above-mentioned, and the instructions we have thought it necessary to give to the gentlemen appointed to them, we beg leave to refer you to the consultation noted in the margin. where every particular, relative to this subject, is recorded.

Consultation 6th January.

12. The near approach of the Bombay Detachment, under Colonel Charles Morgan, to its destination within the line of our own provinces induced us to request the assistance of the Commander in Chief in forming such reductions in the military establishment as, it might be judged advisable, should take place on the arrival of these troops. General Stibbert accordingly attended us, and recommended that six regiments should be immediately disbanded, which we agreed to. And for a particular account of this reduction we beg leave to refer you to our proceedings.

9th January.

13. Your Military Paymaster General having frequently represented to us that the retrenchments made from the military accounts prior to the year 1780 could not be recovered, and that by standing against the different Paymasters they exhibited to the Company balances due, from which they had nothing to expect, and as we had already been obliged in the cases of Messrs. Pison and Burgh to write off these retrenchments, we resolved to make the rule general, and accordingly ordered all retrenchments from the Paymasters' accounts, previous to the period we have before mentioned, to be wrote off to profit and loss in the books of his office.

Consultation 6th January.

14. We have received a letter from Mr. A. Williams, Surgeon Major of the 1st Brigade, representing the disappointment he had suffered in his expectations of succeeding to the office of Surgeon General by the return of Mr. Ellis to his station in your service.

15. This gentleman has been twenty years a Surgeon Major, and as his prospect of succession to the office of Surgeon General is still further

removed by our expectations and hopes that Mr. Daniel Campbell will obtain your permission to return to his rank and station in a short time, and Mr William's request being strengthened by the opinion and recommendation both, of the Commander in Chief and the late Surgeon General, we resolved to grant him the rank and allowances of a lieutenant colonel, a reward to which his long and faithful services justly entitle him.

16. The Administrator to the effects of the Reverend Mr. Stanley, late Chaplain to the Third Brigade, has represented to us the insolvency of the estate, and solicits that Mr. Stanley's widow, who is left with two or three children, may be admitted to enjoy the benefit of the pension. We transmit a copy of his letter, a number in the packet, for your decision respecting the claim preferred on behalf of Mr. Stanley.

17. The following officers have obtained our permission to resign the service and proceed to Europe for the purposes mentioned in their different letters, viz., Major Roberts Davy, Captains Harvey, Hawkesly Hall, Robert Stewart, Geo. Birrel and Ensign Williams.

18. The opinion entertained by the Commander in Chief of the services and merit of the several officers is mentioned in his letters to us, recorded in the consultations noted in the margin, to which we beg leave to refer you.

19. The state of the treasury this day is as follows:

#### Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	30,855	2	6	
Khalsah	...	...	25,671	3	0	
						56,526 5 6

#### Bills receivable

General Treasury						
Sicca rupees	...	50,000	0	0	58,000	0 0
Khalsah do.	...	3,19,050	12	9	3,70,098	14 9
						4,28,098 14 9

#### Mint

General Treasury	...	...	1,45,511	15	5	
Khalsah	...	...	...			
						1,45,511 15 5

#### Unsorted treasure

##### Khalsah

From Burdwan	...	...	8,361	10	0	
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees	...					9,197 2 2
						Current rupees 39,334 5 10



Balance account deposits	...	8,89,919	13	3
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by publick advertisement	...	45,117	0	8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,66,69,656	5	8
11 per cent remittance loan	...	33,67,360	0	0
Annuities	...	45,920	0	0
				<hr/> 2,11,38,135 . 1 4

Fort William,  
the 16th February 1784.

We have the honor to be  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.

18

## LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1784

*Board of Trade versus Prinsep—sanction of one crore of rupees for the Investment of 1784/5—Francis and Barwell to return the sums overpaid to them—return of the Bengal troops from the Carnatic.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Our address to you from this Department, under date the 16th instant, was per *Fox*, which ship sailed from Kedgerie on the 22nd, and we have no doubt but that Captain Blackburn has before this time quitted his pilot. Duplicate of that letter with a continuation of our proceedings and index for the month of January are now forwarded by the *Warren Hastings*, together with the papers and books, as particularly specified in the list of packet.

2. Captain Popham, who came out in the command of the *Ann* and *Amelia* transport, has made a demand of *Arcot* rupees six thousand one hundred and twenty eight (6128) for dieting one hundred and eighty five Hanoverians from Bombay to Madras, which we have referred to you, not deeming ourselves authorized to discharge it.

*Vide Consultation*  
27th January.

3. In the 58th and 59th paragraphs of our letter per *Surprise* we informed you that in consequence of Mr. Prinsep having claimed the

right which, in the agreement with him respecting the chintz manufactory, is reserved to either party of referring to arbitration the decision on any case of difference that might arise, we had authorized and desired the Board of Trade to appoint proper persons on the part of the Company to determine on the design and obligation of the clause contained in the contract respecting the purchase of these buildings.

4. Arbitrators having been, in consequence, chosen respectively by the Board of Trade and Mr. Prinsep, they have awarded that the obligation to receive the buildings etc., at Pultah is binding upon the Company; and fixed the sum to be paid to Mr. Prinsep as the value of them at (Arcot rupees 2,14,047) two hundred and fourteen thousand and forty seven Arcot rupees, with interest from the 15th of February 1783.

5. The Board of Trade having already written to you an account of this transaction we beg leave to refer to their letters and to our consultations where you will find the subject fully stated.

6. We have advised you from time to time of the ships, according to the following list, having received cargoes on board; and the amount of their invoices is particularly specified opposite to the name of each, viz.,

<i>Resolution</i>	...	...	...	...	16,34,740
<i>Rodney</i>	...	...	...	...	16,56,500
<i>Busbridge</i>	...	...	...	...	54,000
<i>Worcester</i>	...	...	...	...	15,45,700
<i>Winterton</i>	...	...	...	...	14,16,200
<i>Norfolk</i>	...	...	...	...	13,54,000
<i>Atlas</i>	...	...	...	...	14,07,500
<i>Barwell</i>	...	...	...	...	14,43,900
<i>Belmont</i>	...	...	...	...	14,08,700
<i>Halswell</i>	...	...	...	...	13,57,250
<i>Ceres</i>	...	...	...	...	13,03,400
<i>Talbot</i>	...	...	...	...	14,15,700
<i>Lord Macartney</i>	...	...	...	...	11,07,790
<i>Pigot</i>	...	...	...	...	4,18,600
<i>Fox</i>	...	...	...	...	13,71,985
<i>Warren Hastings</i>	...	...	...	...	12,69,600
and the <i>Earl of Oxford</i> cargo will be more than	...	...	...	...	12,00,000
Total					<u>2,13,65,565</u>

7. Thus the Board of Trade have shipped and dispatched, in the course of a few months, goods the prime cost of which amounts to current rupees (2,13,65,565), twenty one millions three hundred and sixty five thousand five hundred and sixty five, which rated at 2s. 1d. per current

rupee is (£stg. 2,225,579-13-9) two millions two hundred and twenty five thousand five hundred and seventy nine pounds sterling.

8. We cannot, in justice to the Board of Trade, pass over this subject without expressing the high sense we entertain of their diligence in effecting the early dispatch of so many of the Honourable Company's ships this season, and we hope their exertions will appear to you, as it does to us, deserving your approbation and favor.

20th February.

9. In order that you may regulate the quantity of tonnage to be sent here for the investment of 1784/5 we think it necessary to acquaint you that we have resolved to allot the sum of one crore of rupees for it, and we have accordingly called on the Board of Trade to furnish us with an account of the balance remaining from the last year's investment, that we may compleat the sum of one crore by advance from our treasury, allowing them the proceeds of their import sales as a fund for the expences of their establishment.

20th February.

10. We have restricted the provision of raw silk for 1784/5 to fifteen lacks of rupees, the quantity of the present year's investment; and have notified to the Board of Trade that these resolutions are revokable only by such orders as we may receive from you.

11. Considering the great risk to which the Honourable Company's investment is exposed if sent from hence after the 10th March, we have been induced to resolve that the *Earl of Oxford* shall be the last ship dispatched this season, and we hope this will be effected within the charterparty period.

20th February.

12. In obedience to the commands conveyed to us in your letter of 27th March 1783 we directed our Civil Paymaster to call upon the Attorneys of Messieurs Barwell and Francis to return the sums overpaid to them. Our Consultation will shew you the result of these requisitions, and we are under the necessity of referring you to these gentlemen in Europe, who we doubt not will readily hold themselves responsible should you think it necessary to persist in the demand.

27th January.

13. We have likewise called upon the Attorneys of Major Fairfax to return to the Military Paymaster General the pay and allowances received on account of that gentleman since his absence from Bengal, and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Governor General has pledged himself in case of a refusal on their part to pay the amount himself.

27th January.

14. You were informed by our letter of the 9th instant of the measures we had adopted for reducing the expences of your military establishment in consequence of the near approach of the detachment that

has been for some years on the western side of India; and that this reduction may be completed we have repeatedly, and in the most urgent manner, requested the Government of Fort St. George to return to these provinces the Bengal troops serving in the Carnatic.

15. We have remitted to Fort St. George bills of exchange to the amount of 3,20,000 *sicca* rupees, which we hope is a sufficient sum to pay up so much of the arrears due to the officers and men of the detachment as will enable them to quit that Presidency, and we shall send an additional supply for their relief to Masulipatam.

16. The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury ...	...	31,492 15 11	
Khalsah ...	...	26,151 14 10	
		<hr/>	57,644 14 9

Bills receivable

General Treasury			-
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	50,000 0 0	58,000 0 0	
Khalsah			
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	2,10,085 14 9	2,43,699 10 9	
		<hr/>	3,01,699 10 9

Mint

General Treasury ...	...	1,45,511 15 5	
Khalsah ...	...	...	
		<hr/>	1,45,511 15 5

Current rupees 5,04,856 8 11

Balance account deposits	...	8,45,171 13 3	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161 13 9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by publick advertisement	...	45,117 0 8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,65,49,056 5 8	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	33,67,360 0 0	
Annuities	...	45,920 0 0	
		<hr/>	2,09,72,787 1 4

Fort William,  
the 28th February 1784.

We have the honour to be  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.



## LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1784

*Madras distressed by the embargo laid on the export of rice—appreciation of the services of Mr. Larkins, the Accountant General—number of supernumerary army officers to be reduced—Major Wray restored to his rank after being dismissed by court martial—promotion of senior infantry officers without increase in pay.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to advise you by the *Earl of Oxford*, now under dispatch, that your letters in this Department, per *Swallow* of 10th and 24th September 1783, together with the papers, as per list of packet, were received on the 12th instant.

2. The amount of the cargoe per *Earl of Oxford* is, as per invoice, current rupees 12,32,350.

3. The President and Council of Fort St. George having thought proper to alter the destination of the *Swallow* the letters above referred to were forwarded to this place by a country vessel, and we understand, although from private advices, that Captain Bendy sailed for Mangalore on the 25th ultimo.

4. The *Fox* quitted her pilot on the 25th ultimo, and the *Warren Hastings* the 7th instant.

5. A duplicate of our letter per *Warren Hastings* is now dispatched to you with our proceedings and index for the month of February, together with the several papers as per list of packet.

6. In our letter of 9th February we advised you of our application to the Government of Batavia for a supply of grain from the island of Java, and the ports to the eastward, for the settlement of Fort St. George which (with the large quantities of rice which would be shipped during the North East Monsoon from the Sircars and the Maratta countries to the northward and from the southern districts of the Carnatic when the monsoon changed) we hoped would afford them a relief nearly equal to their wants; and we were confirmed in this idea by the constant advices we received from Madras, of the low price of grain there even long after the embargo on its exportation from this port was known to have taken place.

has been for some years on the western side of India; and that this reduction may be completed we have repeatedly, and in the most urgent manner, requested the Government of Fort St. George to return to these provinces the Bengal troops serving in the Carnatic.

15. We have remitted to Fort St. George bills of exchange to the amount of 3,20,000 *sicca* rupees, which we hope is a sufficient sum to pay up so much of the arrears due to the officers and men of the detachment as will enable them to quit that Presidency, and we shall send an additional supply for their relief to Masulipatam.

16. The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	31,492	15	11	
Khalsah	...	...	26,151	14	10	
						57,644 14 9

Bills receivable

General Treasury						-
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	50,000	0	0	58,000	0	0
Khalsah						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	2,10,085	14	9	2,43,699	10	9
						3,01,699 10 9

Mint

General Treasury	...	...	1,45,511	15	5	
Khalsah	...	...	...			
						1,45,511 15 5

Current rupees 5,04,856 8 11

Balance account deposits	...	8,45,171	13	3	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by publick advertisement	... ..	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,65,49,056	5	8	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	33,67,360	0	0	
Annuities	... ..	45,920	0	0	
<hr/>					2,09,72,787 1 4

Fort William,  
the 28th February 1784.

We have the honour to be  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants.

securing the remittance of his property to Europe have induced us to comply with a request made by that gentleman that the amount due on bonds, which he had taken for sums received on account of the commission granted to him on the 30th March 1781, might be transferred to the remittance loan advertized on the 30th October 1783, for which bills are not to be granted till the 1st February 1785.

13. You have been informed by our repeated testimonies of the services rendered the Company by Mr. Larkins, and we hope the circumstances mentioned in his letter will make him appear to you highly deserving of this indulgence, and induce you to signify  
 Consultation 20th February. your approval by accepting the bills which will be drawn on you in his favor. We beg leave to refer you to the minutes entered individually by the members of our Board on this occasion.

14. The Reverend Doctor James Burn, our Senior Chaplain, proceeds to Europe in the *Earl of Oxford* for the recovery of his health.

15. We are sorry, from such a cause, to be deprived of the services of that gentleman who has lived long amongst us, respected and beloved for his exemplary character and attention to the duties of his station. Led equally from a sense of justice and esteem to bear this testimony to his merit we cannot refrain also expressing our solicitude for his future welfare, and therefore embrace this opportunity of warmly recommending him to your patronage and support, whether it should be his inclination to seek church preferment at home or to return to his station in this country on the reestablishment of his health.

16. Mr. Hugh Baillie, one of your civil servants upon the establishment, has requested our permission to resign the Honourable Company's service on account of his ill state of health, and to settle his private affairs in England. We have granted his request and he now proceeds to Europe by the *Earl of Oxford*. Considering this gentleman deserving your favorable attention we beg leave to recommend him to you.

17. We are concerned to inform you of the death of Mr. Tierney, in your civil service, who had attended the late Commander in Chief during all the campaigns in the Carnatic as his Secretary, and Paymaster to the Bengal Detachment serving with him.

18. As the disbursements to this part of your army were of a very intricate nature we thought it necessary to appoint a person to succeed him, who was acquainted with his accounts. We accordingly nominated Mr. Tyler, of the Madras establishment, who had been employed in Sir Eyre Coote's family under Mr. Tierney and had been particularly recommended to our favorable notice by the General; and we have the pleasure to inform you that the Governor and Council of Fort St. George acquiesced in our motives and confirmed the appointment.

19. In our letter, per *Nerbudda*, of the 29th September 1783 (paras. 51 and 52), we stated the reasons which induced us particularly to request that you would not send out any more cadets for this establishment.

20. The number of supernumerary officers occasioned by the late reduction, which will be materially encreased when the Be[ngal] Detachment serving in the Carnatic returns to these provinces, renders the appointment of any additional officers totally unnecessary for two years to come; and the expence of our military establishment makes this an object deserving your most serious attention.

21. We must therefore in the strongest terms repeat our request that no more cadets may be sent out till the number of officers shall be considerably reduced. Indeed our establishment is now so burthened, in this respect, that we had it very lately in contemplation to grant leave of absence to such of your officers as wished to return to Europe for two or three years upon their pay (without *batta*) for the sole purpose of lessening the unsupportable expence of so great a number of supernumerary, and consequently useless, officers.

22. We beg leave to request your particular attention to the case of Major Henry [Wray] who was dismissed from your military service by the sentence of a court martial held at Futy Ghur on the 8th July 1783.

23. The proceedings at this trial appearing to us irregular we referred  
 Consultations, the [case] of Major Wray to the judges of the Supreme  
 23rd February and [Court], and in consequence of their opinion, which  
 22nd December. you will find recorded in our consultations, we restored  
 him to his rank and command in the service.

24. Having in consequence [...] reference which we found it necessary to [make] to the Advocate General in the case of Mr. Donelly, requested his opinion on the [...] question "[...] we may legally seize and send home all such persons as shall be [dismissed] the service by the authority of Government [or by the] sentence of a court martial", we think it  
 Consultation 23rd proper to request your attention to his reply, and that  
 February. after having submitted it to the Company's law officers  
 in England we may be favored with your sentiments  
 and instructions there for our guidance in future.

25. The Commander in Chief having recommended a promotion in  
 9th February. the artillery corps to fill the vacancies occasioned by  
 death and resignation we agreed to his recommendation, and made the promotion accordingly.

26. General Stibbert has also in consequence of the earnest solicitations of several of the senior captains and subalterns  
 9th February. of infantry recommended that fifteen of the former  
 and twenty one of the latter shall be indulged with advanced rank but without any increase of pay or allowances.



27. Considering the claims of these gentlemen (the captains having served sixteen years and the subalterns more than twelve), the disagreeable apprehensions, from which they could not divest themselves, of being superceded by the officers in His Majesty's service, either by an incorporation at the conclusion of the War, or [by] being employed together, and knowing that [it is] an established rule in the King's army and, [we] believe, in every other in Europe to grant advance rank without additional pay as a reward for long and faithful services, the majority of Board acquiesced in the recommendation of the Commander in Chief and passed the promotions.

28. A powerful [inducement] for acquiescence is an idea that you could not [...] by your restrictive orders on this subject to refuse your officers of so flattering a recompence, particularly when it is done without any additional expence to the Company, and when you [observed] that many of these officers had been employed on the most severe service during the late [wars] in the Bombay and Madrass detachments, and under Colonels Muir, Camac and Popham, we hope our granting them this indulgence will meet your approbation.

29. Soon after the promotion [...] Stables gave in a minute [...] respect to him in an addition  
 Consultation 27th February. [...] the list of officers, after it [...] circulation, our Secretary deeming it [...] his justification to remove the [...] alteration in [...] requested General Stibbert to [...] he has done as will [...] subject sent home [...] of [the packets.]

30. With him we have received a report from the Company for it [...] of the issue of the suit [...] for his share of the prize money [...] him at [Bidzighur] by which you [...] receive a decree has been [obtained] in [favour] of the Company [with costs] of suit and [...] to be made on the [...] Balfour the amount in [...] The subject was mentioned [...] our letter of the 15th July, and [...] record in consultations [...] of the Board of [...] in [...] appointed [by] [...] to consider the [...] officers who applied [...] in consequence of the [...] transmitted by the Committee of [...] field officers, division [...] on the spot [...]

31. [...] Lieutenant Gall having [obtained] our [permission] to resign the service [...] to [...] on the *Warren Hastings*.

32. The former of these gentlemen was obliged to quit this country

for [the recovery] of his health, and from our opinion of his merits we are induced to add our recommendation to that of the Commander in Chief in his favor.

33. The motive assigned by Lieutenant Gall for proceeding to England is that of soliciting you to fix his rank in the army, his name having been omitted in the list of [.....] 1781.

34. The state of treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	26,6	[.....]	
Khalsah	...	...	113,3	[.....]	[.....]

Bills receivable

General Treasury					
Sicca rupees	50,000	0	0	58,	[.....]
Khalsah do.	66,891	11	9	77	[.....] 6-6 [.....]

Unsorted treasure

Khalsah  
From Burdwan  
Rupees 1,828 6 0

Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees 2811 [.....]

Current rupees 277 [.....]

Balance account deposits	...	76,577	7	8	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by publick advertisement	...	[?]45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent		1,65,49,056	5	8	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	16,96,680	0	0	[.....]

Fort William,  
the 15th March 1784.

We have the honor to be  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most obedient humble servants.

## LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1784

*Retrenchment in the Bengal troops serving in the West of India—  
Colonel Morgan's work praised.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable  
United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have the honor to transmit you, via Fort St. George, the duplicate of our advices per *Earl of Oxford*, and triplicate of those per *Warren Hastings*.

2. Colonel Charles Morgan whom, as you have been already advised, we appointed on the 15th April 1782 to command the detachment of the Bengal troops serving in the West of India returned with that detachment to Etayah on the 29th ultimo, and on that day, in conformity to our resolutions, it was reduced, and the six battalions composing it posted to the different brigades.

Consultation 19th  
January.

3. The Colonel upon his arrival in Calcutta addressed a letter to us, of which we transmit you a copy, requesting our permission to resign the Honourable Company's service, which we have granted.

4. The strict attention this officer has paid to our orders, and to the special objects of his appointment, has been so satisfactory, and followed by such considerable reductions in the public expence, that we cannot, in justice to him, avoid affording this testimony of the great service which he has rendered the Company, and expressing our highest approbation of his conduct, at the same time that we lament Colonel Morgan's ill state of health should be the means of depriving your service of so valuable an officer.

5. For your more particular information we send you, numbers in the packet, Colonel Morgan's letter with its enclosures; and avail ourselves of his offer to carry our dispatches to you.

6. We have the pleasure to inform you that the *Earl of Oxford* quitted her pilot on the 24th instant.

Fort William,  
1st April 1784.

We are etc.

## LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1784

*Loss of the Major due to fire—the 1785/6 Investment—improvement in the grain situation at Madras—complaint of Fort St. George against Bengal Government for not supplying them money unjustified—mutiny of the cavalry in the Carnatic—scarcity of grain in Bombay and Tellicherry—steps taken to increase the supply of specie to Fort Marlborough—measures to make up for the loss sustained by the Government on account of paying compensation to sufferers of the embargo—King of Rhio's proposal that an English factory be established in his land accepted—Dr. Rowland Jackson's widow applies for pension from Lord Clive's Fund.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We avail ourselves of an opportunity afforded by a Danish ship, the *Copenhagen*, of conveying to you from this Department a short account of such transactions as have happened since our last dispatches of the 15th March, of which we enclosed you a triplicate.

2. The *Earl of Oxford* quitted her pilot on the 24th March, and by a letter from Captain White, dated 16th April, we learn he was on that day in latitude 7°-46' N., all well.

3. Since closing the dispatches per *Oxford* we have had the honor to receive your commands of the:

10th and 24th September per *Swallow* on the 12th March

Duplicate 24th September per *Eurydice* on the 29th March

23rd December per *Berrington* on the 4th July

Duplicate December per *Valentine* on the 26th July

Triplicate December per *Hillsborough* on the 9th August, and that of the 28th January per *Mansfield* on the 16th August.

4. A particular reply to these advices will be forwarded by the first of the Company's ships, to be dispatched the ensuing season, which we suppose will arrive in Europe nearly as soon as the *Copenhagen*; under this idea we avoid writing you so fully at present as we should otherwise do.

5. We are concerned to inform you of the total loss by fire of the Honourable Company's ship *Major* whilst laying off Culpee. By a letter



Consultation 5th May. Captain Arthur received from Mr. Burfoot the chief officer, who was on board at the time, it seems this melancholy event happened in fumigating the ship, and by the same letter we learn that in twenty minutes after the *Major* took fire she blew up and was totally destroyed. We are happy to inform you that very few lives were lost by this unfortunate accident, and that there was no other cargo on board belonging to the Honourable Company than the usual quantity of saltpetre and red wood for ballast.

6. In the consultation noted in the margin a protest is recorded from Captain Arthur against us for "not dispatching the *Major* for England in due time." When this protest was received

Consultation 2nd June. we ordered the charterparty of the *Major*, together with all the circumstances respecting this ship's detention in India, to be laid before the Advocate General, desiring him to point out the necessary steps to be taken, should any be thought so. His

Consultation 24th June. reply however was "that it did not appear to him that the Governor General and Council were called upon to take any measures in consequence of Captain Arthur's protest."

7. In our letter of the 29th November 1783 we informed you that we had resolved to dispatch the *Nassau* to Bombay (with saltpetre on the Company's account) to be returned here so as to proceed to Europe, in the course of the season from Bengal. You will be advised from the Bombay Presidency that the destination of this ship is altered to China, a circumstance perfectly satisfactory to us as the supracargoes at Canton are in great want of tonnage, and we are likely to have two or three ships more than we shall be able to occupy.

8. To prevent the loss the Company must inevitably sustain by some of your chartered ships lying here unemployed at a very heavy demurrage we have written to the gentlemen at Bombay desiring that they will not send us the *Europa* or *Glatton*, as they intended, instead of the *Nassau*, and recommended them to order all the ships for which they have not cargoes for Europe direct to China. The Presidency of Fort St. George has also been requested to send to China any ships that may call therefrom in their way to Bengal.

9. The Company's ships now in this river are the *Southampton*, *Besborough*, *Berrington*, *Valentine*, *Hillsborough* and *Earl of Mansfield*.

10. Those expected are the *Vansittart* from Batavia, the *Hinchinbrooke* from Bombay and *Earl Cornwallis* from Europe.

11. We have not yet fixed the order and time of the departure of these ships but shall take an early opportunity of doing it, and we hope the Board of Trade will be able to load and dispatch the whole within the period fixed by charterparty.

12. Our letter of the 28th February advised you of our having resolved to appropriate one crore of *sicca* rupees for the investment of 1785/6 with our resolutions in consequence, which we had made revocable

only in obedience to any commands we might receive from you, it is therefore only necessary to advise you by this conveyance that not having received any instructions from you on this subject no alteration has taken place in these resolutions.

13. The supracargoes at Canton have represented to us that they had engaged cargoes for a considerable number of ships, and pointed out the ill consequences of detaining or diverting the destination of those intended for that voyage, which they attribute to our concluding they would be unable to provide cargoes without assistance from us, at the same time urging the necessity for our affording them every supply which the exigencies of the Company's affairs would admit.

14. In reply we informed them that the reason for the detention of the China ships proceeded from their arriving on the Coast so late as to make the passage to China impracticable that season, in consequence of which they had been employed in conveying stores and provisions to the several Presidencies, but that the whole now remaining in India would (we understood) be dispatched for Canton in the course of the season. We have already mentioned our letters to Fort St. George and Bombay on this subject.

15. The distress of this Government from our exertions to support so long and expensive a war deprived us of the means of furnishing a supply of treasure this season to Canton, but we have given your supracargoes assurances that we would gladly afford all the aid in our power for the provision of the next year's investment, and we requested them to endeavour to point out some mode for effecting this end, less destructive to the currency of Bengal than that of exporting specie and less objectionable to them than the methods we were obliged to adopt in 1782.

16. We are happy that the quantity of grain thrown into Madrass, in consequence of the reestablishment of peace, made the failure of the intended very large supplies (which the scarcity in Bengal obliged us to deprive them of) so little felt that the price even in a time of the greatest plenty is seldom so low as it has been since our last dispatches to you, and as the precautions we have taken and the favorable prospects from the approaching crops have removed the apprehensions of famine in Bengal, though we do not yet think it prudent to take off the embargo, we have hopes of being able to afford a supply during the next season, which with those expected from other quarters will be fully adequate to the consumption of that Presidency.

17. The want of cash (which this quarter has felt to a most distressing degree) obliged the Government of Madras to draw upon us to an enormous amount, their bills from the 1st of April last year to the present time exceeding on an average 4,58,637-0-3 rupees per month, and appearing to encrease rather than diminish.

We have pointed out the ill effects of thus imposing so constant

and at the same time so heavy a burthen upon our treasury, which anticipates our receipt and consequently deprives us of the power of making such applications of our resources as the immediate demands of the different Presidencies, who must be supplied by us, necessarily require.

18. The frequent representations of their distress and pressing demands for further supplies have prevented us, notwithstanding our own difficulties, from restraining the Government of Fort St. George in their drafts upon us, though the absolute necessity for such a measure has frequently claimed our serious attention. We continue to accept their bills.

19. It is with much concern we still observe these representations mingled with reproaches and complaints of want of attention in us to their distresses, which we are really incapable of relieving in a greater degree than we have done, and which we have the mortification of seeing our own Government equally participate. That we have not been insensible to the claims from the Carnatic our unremitted exertions since the commencement of the war afford convincing proofs; we have never withheld a supply it was in our power to furnish, nor did we even communicate the distress of our provinces without endeavouring at the same time to avert the ill consequences of that distress to the settlement of Madrass. You will please to observe, that notwithstanding the general representations of the administration of Fort St. George concerning their want of resources and the scantiness of our supplies, that they have never complied with our repeated injunctions to transmit us regular accounts of their receipts and disbursements and the state of their arrears, accounts which alone could enable us to distribute with equal justice any overplus of resource that we could afford to the other Presidencies.

20. The measures we have taken, in consequence of advices, respecting the mutiny of the cavalry in the Carnatic<sup>1</sup>, and the dispatch of treasure by His Majesty's sloop the *Lizard*, with all the circumstances of the march and subsequent detention by the rains of the detachment under Colonel Pearse<sup>2</sup> will be communicated to you from the Secret Department.

21. On the 6th of March the President and Council at Bombay addressed a letter to us respecting the great distress that settlement and the factory at Tellicherry were in for rice, and urging us to endeavour to effect their relief by every means in our power.

22. We referred this letter to the Committee of Grain for their opinion of the best method of sending a supply at this season of the year, and of the quantity which we could be able to spare from hence without danger to these provinces.

23. The Committee in reply acquainted us that the accounts they had received regarding the harvests of the last season and the quantity of grain in store in the provinces had not tended in any degree to alter the opinion, they had communicated to us on the 24th of February, of the necessity for continuing the embargo; on the contrary they were induced to repeat

Consultation 5th  
May.

that they did not think any considerable exports could yet be afforded from these provinces with due regard to the future welfare of the country, and the preservation of the lives of the inhabitants.

24. They were however of opinion that 30,000 bags might be spared from the Company's stores without much danger. We accordingly resolved to dispatch that quantity without loss of time, and directed them to advertize for proposals for its immediate transportation either to Bombay or Tellicherry. In consequence of which they engaged vessels to convey this supply at the rate of *sicca* rupees 6 and 6-6 per bag. As the season of the year made it requisite that the ships who undertook this passage should be strong and well found we directed the Master Attendant to examine each of them, previous to their being engaged for this service.

25. The great plenty and low price of grain at Madrass at this period held out a prospect of being able to supply a considerable quantity from that place as the merchants who had collected, as we understood, a large quantity of rice from the Sircars would gladly change its destination to the relief of Bombay or Tellicherry.

26. We therefore advertized for proposals for the delivery of 50,000 bags at either of these places before the 1st of October to be paid for by bills of exchange on this Government, and accepted all the offers which could be depended upon, in consequence, to the amount of 36,000 bags, at the rates of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  and 11 rupees per bag.

27. We have likewise accepted all the bills drawn upon us by that Presidency, and omitted no opportunity of conveying supplies to them from our treasury.

28. You have been already informed of the steps we had taken, previous to our last dispatches to you, for supplying the Presidency of Fort Marlborough in obedience to your repeated commands. Their indents with a few trifling variations, which necessity obliged us to make, had been fully complied with except in the article of opium of which we had not any on hand and of specie which the state of our treasury did not admit of our supplying. And bills from them have been accepted to the amount of current rupees 2,04,542-5-8 since the commencement of the last year.

29. The difficulties which the Presidency of Fort Marlborough found themselves under for a supply of specie from here obliged them to make repeated and earnest applications to us on this subject. And Lieutenant  
 Consultation 2nd  
 June. Colonel Murray, whose health and the situation of his private affairs rendered his making a voyage to Bengal necessary, was charged with a further representation of their distress and of the necessity of some steps being immediately taken for their relief.

30. Fully sensible of the urgency of their demands we did not hesi-



tate in determining to send them supplies to the utmost extent of our abilities, but the state of our finances obliged us to attempt some new mode by which we might afford relief to them without an immediate drain which our treasury, pressed by bills and demands from all parts of India, could not bear.

31. For this purpose we published an advertisement inviting proposals for delivering at Fort Marlborough 50,000 Spanish dollars before the 31st of December, and the like sum before the 31st of March, the amount to be issued in Patna opium the produce of the present season, and we determined to take such precaution as should ensure the supply being made in actual specie to preclude any disappointment on that account.

32. None of the proposals we received in consequence were entirely satisfactory, but the necessity of making a remittance of specie induced us to accept those which we deemed most advantageous.

33. We accordingly contracted with Mr. John Ferguson for the delivery of 40,000 dollars before the first period mentioned in our advertizement, and with Captain Dixon for the delivery of 10,000 dollars before the 31st of March, under a penalty from each in case of failure of double the value.

34. Mr. Ferguson afterwards proposed, in order to meet our desire of making as early a remittance as possible, to pay the whole amount of his contract in bullion into our treasury here before the 1st of September and deposit a policy of insurance against all risks made at his expence, and assigned to us instead of giving the security required and sending it from hence on his own account.

35. As the Presidency of Fort Marlborough had particularly recommended to us to send such specie as we could spare in rupees of the peculiar currency of that place this proposal not only afforded us an opportunity of complying in that respect with their wishes but seemed to make the remittance at once more secure and more expeditious. We therefore agreed to accept of the bullion as tendered by Mr. Ferguson in fulfillment of his contract, which we shall coin into the specie required and dispatch to Fort Marlborough on the *Intelligence*, a coppered vessel, the property of the Company.

36. The rest of the supplies in bills, specie, opium and goods to the extent of 2 lacks of rupees will be dispatched by the earliest opportunity, and we shall continue to accept such bills as are drawn on us by that Presidency.

37. We are happy that these measures have anticipated your commands received per *Mansfield*. You may be assured that our unremitting

endeavours will be exerted in employing every resource in our power for the relief of all the other Presidencies, the burthen of which falls almost entirely upon us, and that in the application of them we shall pay the strictest attention to your orders and to the general interests of the Company.

38. During the course of the last 12 months we have supplied the several Presidencies by payments of their drafts and bills, specie and goods, dispatched from hence, to the following amount:

To Fort St. George	...	...	...	61,34,322	12	3
Bombay	...	...	...	8,15,040	7	3
Fort Marlborough	...	...	...	1,72,414	3	7

39. These heavy and incessant drains on an exhausted treasury, added to advances to the Board of Trade and to the expences of our army and other establishments, have driven us to the necessity of a measure it was our wish, as much as possible, to avoid, that of drawing upon you. Our treasury which was opened on the 20th of February closed, according to our resolutions, on the 30th of April, and we were obliged to open it again on the 7th of June and continue to let it remain so to the 31st of July.

40. The amount received during those periods for bills, which are to be granted in February next upon you, is current rupees 63,96,457.

41. The immense and valuable cargoes which were dispatched to you in the course of the last season, and for which you must have an extensive and favorable sale from the general establishment of peace in Europe after so long a war, will we hope render your acceptance of these bills easy, especially as they contain an optional clause for your postponing payment for three years. At all events we thought it more for your lasting interest and the general good of your service to incur those drafts than by a misplaced regard to the letter of your orders to permit the other Presidencies to sink amidst their wants and distresses, which must have been the consequence of our not keeping the treasury open, and had not this money been received by us it would have been remitted to Europe through foreign channels to the great prejudice of your sales.

42. When the state of the country obliged us to lay the embargo on the exportation of grain several merchants who had prepared tonnage for conveying large quantities of this article to Fort St. George represented to us the loss they sustained, and appealed to our justice for relief.

43. As public necessity alone was the cause of the prohibition it became an important object of our attention to prevent individuals suffering more than a proportionable share of the general calamity.

44. You have been already informed of the compensation we made

when the embargo was first imposed to those who had actually shipped grain and were obliged to reland it. The merchants who had paid for tonnage which our order rendered useless stood in the same predicament, and were equally entitled to indemnification.

45. We accordingly resolved that the sufferers by the embargo should be reimbursed such sums as they should prove by oath to have been actual losses sustained by them; and their several claims were examined with the most scrutinyzing exactness by the Committee of Grain.

46. The sense of justice which induced us to make this compensation to individuals operated equally to prevent any part of the burthen of it falling on the Company. To effect which, and to divide as much as possible the loss amongst those for whose benefit it was incurred we resolved to collect an additional tax upon such articles as were of most general consumption till the produce should amount to the sum required. We have fixed the rates of the several taxes as equitably as possible, and the measure was put into immediate execution.

47. The restoration of peace throughout India has again afforded us an opportunity of applying our time and attention to effect every possible reduction in the expence of our establishments, an object which we shall pursue with unremitting assiduity.

48. In this view the contract for supplying the army with bullocks and camels etc., became early the subject of our consideration, and we have effected an alteration in the whole mode of conducting the duties of this Department.

49. This subject is of so much importance that we refrain from entering into discussion of our proceedings which would exceed the bounds of our intention in addressing you at this time, but that you may be possessed of complete information an abstract of our proceedings accompanys this letter, to which we beg leave to refer you for every particular respecting the annulling and adjustment of the contract, and the appointment of Sir Charles Blunt, one of your servants, to be agent for transacting the business.

50. In consequence of the observations contained in the 9th and 10th paragraphs of your letter of the 24th September 1783 we required from the Sub Treasurer an explanation of the subject of your complaints; we do ourselves the pleasure of accompanying this address with a copy of his answer, which we hope will prove satisfactory to you.

51. Captain Thomas Forrest, whom you recommended to us in your letter of [...], on his return from his voyage to, and survey of, the islands on the coast of Mergui, communicated to us a proposal he had received from the

Consultation 15th  
April.

King of Rhio to appropriate a part of his dominions to the Company for an English settlement.

52. The acceptance of this offer may be productive of considerable advantages by forming a secure mart for the disposal of the opium produced in Bengal, and perhaps by opening sources of commerce with the natives hitherto unknown, as well as affording refreshment and assistance to our ships trading to the eastward or on their passage to China, and will be attended with a very inconsiderable expence.

53. We therefore deputed Captain Forrest with a letter and small present to the King of Rhio, and instructed him to take possession of the ground which the king might allot for the purpose of an English factory, and upon obtaining a grant of it to the Company to erect the British flag, and endeavour to gain the confidence of the natives, and open a free intercourse of trade not only with the inhabitants of Rhio but of all the neighbouring islands. A powerfull inducement for adopting this measure was to prevent foreigners from establishing themselves there.

Consultation 15th April.

54. We further directed him to continue his survey of that Coast and the islands near it, and to ascertain the produce of the country, and what goods produced in any of the Company's factories might be advantageously bartered for it.

55. Captain Forrest accordingly sailed for Rhio in the *Esther* brig, taking with him, by our orders, a small investment of opium, piece goods and such articles as were likely to find a good market, and we instructed him to demand the amount of the opium lost in the port of Rhio on board the *Betsy* in 1782.

56. The remarks made by this gentleman during his last voyage and a map of the islands surveyed by him will be transmitted to you on one of the ships of the ensuing season, and will evince Captain Forrest's zeal and diligence in the prosecution of the discoveries in which he has been employed.

57. The contract with Mr. Vanderheyden for keeping in repair the cantonments at Berhampore and Dinapore expiring in October next, we, agreeably to your orders, published an advertizement for a renewal of it to the lowest proposer.

58. Various offers were in consequence made, the terms of which differed from each other very materially, the highest being more than double the amount of the lowest, an evident proof that most of them were formed without any calculation whatever.

Consultation 2nd June.

59. The terms which appeared to us most eligible were those pro-



posed by the Quartermaster General, Lieutenant Colonel McPherson, but as your directions on these subjects are positive Consultation 2nd we did not consider ourselves authorized to make use June. of an optional judgement, especially as sufficient security was offered by Mr. Wordie, the lowest proposer, we accordingly accepted his terms and contracted with him to keep these cantonments in repair for one year, as stipulated in the former contract for the sum of 40,000 *sicca* rupees.

60. Major Giels of the Madras establishment has applied to us for a balance of £ stg. 868-5, which he stated to be due to him for travelling charges when dispatched by you with a packet to India.

61. As we had no mode of ascertaining the justice of this gentleman's demand, and your orders expressly directed him to draw upon you for such cash as he might expend on his journey, we were under the necessity of referring him to you for an adjustment of his accounts.

62. It is with concern we advise you of the death of Mr. Edward Stephenson, one of the members of the Board of Trade; Mr. Bateman the next in succession has taken his seat at that Board, in conformity to your orders of the 25th January 1782. We have lately been informed by the Chief at Dacca of the melancholy fate of Mr. Hall one of your civil servants, who was unfortunately drowned on the 20th ultimo, having been overset in a small boat by a sudden gust of wind.

63. We are likewise concerned to inform you that Doctor Rowland Jackson, who received your permission to practise physic in this settle-  
ment, and whose professional abilities induced you to  
Company's letter recommend him very particularly to our notice, deceased per *Besborough*, dated 4th January 1777. on the 29th March, leaving a very deserving widow who, by this misfortune, is reduced, at an advanced and helpless time of life, from an affluent situation to such a state of indigence as to be under the necessity of soliciting admission to the benefit of Lord Clive's Fund as her only prospect of future support.

64. In obedience to what we deemed your intention in the very strong recommendation of Doctor Jackson, quoted in the margin, we appointed him physician to this settle-  
Company's letter per *Besborough*, dated 4th January 1777. ment, which extended to your military as well as civil establishment. On this Mrs. Jackson founds her plea of being admitted on the same footing with a military surgeon's widow.

65. The affecting representations contained in her letter, to the truth of which we beg to add our testimony, are strong Consultation 3rd motives not only for our requesting your attentive July. perusal of it but for warmly recommending a compliance with her claim, if it can be done consistently with the rules of the institution.

66. We are sorry to inform you that the following persons have been dismissed from your military service by the sentences of courts martial;

Consultations,	Captain Leonard Jaques.
31st May.	Lieutenant J. Earls.
14th July.	Ensign J. H. Palmer, Assistant Surgeon Powels.
31st May.	

67. In consequence of the departure of Doctor Burn, Senior Chaplain at Presidency, and the Reverend Wm. Johnson succeeding, we removed the Reverend T. Blanchard, by his own desire, from the chaplaincy to the garrison to that station at the Presidency. And the Reverend J. Pemberton having accompanied the detachment of our troops from Bombay, and expressing his wish to remain in Bengal we appointed him Chaplain to the garrison of Fort William in the room of Mr. Blanchard, till your pleasure should be known.

68. The high opinion we entertain of this gentleman induces us to recommend him to your favor and to request your confirmation of his appointment.

69. Major Balfour having embarked for Europe we directed the Company's Attorney to demand from his attornies the amount decreed by the Supreme Court against him in the suit concerning the Bidge Ghur prize money.

70. In reply to this demand Major Balfour's Attorney acquainted us that he had instructions to apply for leave to appeal the cause to His Majesty in Council and offered to deposit bonds of the Honourable Company to remain as security for payment of the decree should it be confirmed on the appeal, which we have accordingly accepted.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	49,910	10	0	
Khalsah	...	...	23,780	3	4	
			<hr/>			73,690 13 4

Bills receivable

General Treasury						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	2,35,000	0	0	2,72,600	0	0
Khalsah						
<i>Sicca</i> rupees	1,79,888	11	6	2,29,550	14	3
				<hr/>		
						5,02,150 14 3
						<hr/>
				Current rupees		5,75,841 11 7

Balance account deposits	...	9,37,994	0	7
Do. Accomptant General to the				
Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9

Balance of old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertizement	...	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,66,49,007	12	11	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	16,96,680	0	0	
					<hr/>
					1,94,48,968 11 11

Fort William,  
23rd August 1784.

We have the honor to be etc.

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LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1784

*Bengal Government justifies the subscription Investment of 1873/4.*

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable  
United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Under date the 12th ultimo Mr. McPherson had the painfull task of communicating to you the death of Mr. Wheeler, which happened at Sooksaughur on the 10th ultimo. We have the honor to enclose you, by this conveyance, a quadruplicate of his letter.

2. We beg leave to inform you that on the 4th instant the Governor General returned to Calcutta and on the eight[h] took his seat at the Board in this Department; a few days previous to this your [letter] via Bussorah of the 15th June and the one written the day following by your Secretary arrived here.

3. We cannot but feel a severe mortification to receive an express overland from your Honourable Court intended for the sole purpose of conveying your displeasure at an act of ours which you have judged and condemned on a principle of error, apparent even in your statement of it, and of founding on that judgment an order which if executed by the letter and not by the spirit under which it was dictated must involve us in unextricable difficulty.

4. Had our conduct been as reprehensible as it appeared to your Honourable Court your censure would have been too lenient for such an instance of inattention, and we must express our regret that you did not rather suspect the accuracy of your officers who furnished you with such statements than impute to us (knowing with what reluctance we had invariably yielded to the demands of the Board of Trade for enlarged advances of money) a connivance with that Board to levy so heavy a contribution on the Company on grounds of so gross an imposition.

5. The error we apprehend has arisen generally from a confusion of the supplies of one season with those of another, and the consequent expectation that the advances made in 1783/4 were to be productive of cargoes for the same season. We are confirmed in this opinion by observing that you yourselves have not deemed it practicable to lade on the ships, dispatched in any particular year of our accounts, goods provided by advances made in the same year. For in your report to the House of Commons dated 14th February 1784 you have considered the advances to be made by us in the year 1787/8 as the last of any from which you expect goods to be received in your warehouses by 1st March 1790, knowing that the goods to be provided with the advances made by us in 1787/8 will not be received at the Presidency until after 10th March 1788, the latest period allowed of by charterparty for the dispatch of ships from Bengal, and consequently must therefore be laden on ships to be dispatched between 20th November 1788 and 10th March 1789, which will probably arrive in England between the month of June and November 1789, and the produce of the goods laden on them realized between the 1st of November 1789 and the 1st of March 1790, the latest period to which your estimates reach.

6. The supplies which form the aggregate amount of the supposed advances of 1783/4 are stated by you as follows:

Amount of the cargoes of the <i>Resolution</i> , <i>Worcester</i> , <i>Norfolk</i> and <i>Hinchinbrooke</i>				61,05,840
Produce of the investment	...	...	...	37,50,000
Do. Dutch investment	...	...	...	18,98,288
Do. subscription of 1782	...	...	...	1,00,00,000
Do. do. of April 1783	...	...	...	50,00,000
Do. do. of May 1783	...	...	...	15,00,000
Do. do. of August 1783	...	...	...	35,00,000
In all				3,17,54,128

Of these sums only the first four ought to have been stated as the advances of 1783/4 and amount but to 2,17,54,128 rupees, and even of these the last ought not to have been stated at its full amount against the cargoes to be produced by it, since it will be found, on a comparative examination of the advances of cash and receipts of goods for many years past, that the latter have fallen short on an average rate of near 17 per cent.



7. The Board of Trade in their letter of the 9th July 1784 inform us that they had then in their warehouse goods to the amount of 14 lacks of the investment of 1783/4, which, whether furnished by their supplies of 1782/3 for the provision of 1783/4 or from old balances make up at least a part of the deficiency of 1783/4; and if this sum be taken as the probable deficiency the estimate of the provision of the investment of 1783/4 ought to have stood thus, viz.,

Cargoes of the 4 ships, above-mentioned, actual produce	61,05,840
Produce of the old investment	do. ... 37,50,000
Do. of the Dutch investment	do. ... 18,98,288
Probable produce of the subscription of 1782	... 86,00,000
<hr/>	
Total amount of the estimated provision of 1783/4	... 2,03,54,128

which at 15 lacks for each cargo would be sufficient for no more than the loading of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ships.

8. From this explanation it became an important question for our determination whether your recommendation, formed on so erroneous a construction, should be literally carried into execution, or whether we should make use of the latitude which your own reasonings seem to admit and do certainly warrant to confirm the original engagement made with the subscribers of the late loan; upon this point we beg leave to offer the following considerations.

First, it is demonstrated that the judgment of your Honourable Court and the recommendation following it were both founded on wrong data, and that if you had stated the provision made for the year 1783/4 at the amount at which it really and truly stood, which was considerably below that required for the ships which were to have been laden in that season, you would not have pronounced an opinion founded on the supposition of an excess in the provision actually made, nor ordered the engagements to be cancelled which were formed on a proved deficiency.

Secondly, your recommendation is worded in terms which differ widely and essentially from those of a positive order, and immediately follows the expression of your disapprobation, which though said to be entire is yet moderated with a clause which shews it to be far from absolute, for you add "as far as we yet understand it", and the expression itself "we recommend" taken with the preceding allowance in your duplicate letter accompanying it of the 16th March "to draw on you in cases of absolute necessity" of itself precludes the construction of an absolute order.

Thirdly, though in your displeasure naturally excited by the supposition of our negligence in a matter so likely to add to your distress you are pleased to reprobate the subscription as a breach of orders and of an act of Parliament, yet you have both approved and applauded the former subscriptions founded on exactly the same principles which if you had known them to have been equally applicable to the present case

must and would have drawn from you the same degree of approbation of the latter.

Fourthly, the drafts which we have made upon you, even with this addition, are carefully guarded against the possibility of distressing you for the payment, both by the optional terms of it and by a provision of an investment greatly exceeding even in the prime cost the amount of the bills.

Fifthly, you have recommended the redemption of the loan on the supposition of our having been enabled by a state of general peace to effect it by the diminution of our expences, not knowing what it was impossible to foresee, that a part of them have continued unaltered by means of the detention of Colonel Pearse's detachment, and that an enormous addition has been made to them by the drafts of the Presidency of Fort St. George, amounting with a remittance in specie of 5 lacks to the sum of rupees 66,61,683-6-7 between the 1st January and 25th October 1784.

Sixthly, the first means of retrieving the affairs of the Company must be derived from the discharge of the heavy debt, of this their first and only productive establishment, and from the restoration of its credit, which would be totally destroyed by so large a sum thrown upon it for immediate payment, a sum not much less than seventy lacks of rupees for which we have not funds, even though all the current disbursements were to be suspended to give it a preference.

Seventhly, as the faith of Government would require such a preference to be given it would of course suspend the payments of all the treasury orders now due to a time so indefinite as almost to preclude the possessors of them, many of whom are contractors for the investment, from the use of the credit of these orders to fulfill their engagements. We apprehend that it would, in that event, invalidate the contracts, and both impede the course of the investment and enhance the price of it by the conditions which would be exacted for the indemnification of the contractors.

Eightly, in the commands of your Honourable Court of the 16th March last, and in your report to the House of Commons, which was enclosed in it, the following appropriation of the resources of Bengal appear to have been made to the yearly supply of the other Presidencies and the trade of China, viz.,

To Bencoolen	£50,000 estimated at rupees 5,00,000
Bombay	£2,26,000 estimated at rupees 22,60,000
China	£2,50,000 estimated at rupees 25,00,000
Madras to supply the investment	which we estimated at rupees 25,00,000

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Total rupees 77,60,000

To this we must add the discharge of the enormous bond debt of the

Presidency of Bombay as recommended by your Honourable Court in the 13th paragraph of your letter of the 28th January 1784. We cannot use this argument, in its full force, as an objection on the present question because it is absolutely impossible that we should answer your expectation in any degree in furnishing such heavy drafts. But as it is our utmost wish as it will be our duty to fulfill them, as far as it may be possible, so far at least they will stand as a valid objection to the question.

Ninthly, and lastly, that as the engagements of this Government have hitherto been ever held sacred for bills drawn on the Company such precedence would totally ruin its credit and disable it from drawing on the Company at any future time when it may be required in cases of the most desperate extremity. And it will be a consideration deserving the attention of your Honourable Court whether it may not affect the credit of your own justice and faith to involve the fortunes of so many individuals as will be the sufferers on this occasion for an act which if blameable can be imputed to this Government alone, and to which those individuals were no farther accessory than in the confidence which they reposed in the good faith and competency of the Board which passed it.

9. For this reason we could not but deem ourselves both justified and bound to fulfil our engagements pledged to the subscribers of the last loan. We therefore humbly submit them to your justice and candor, not doubting of your acquiescence on grounds of such evident necessity, and in which our own interest can have no concern.

10. But, as in the event of the refusal of your Honourable Court to accept our bills, which is possible, the proprietors of the bills might impute to this Government a forfeiture of public faith, and even an intentional deception if they were not apprized, before the bills were drawn, that such a refusal had been denounced by you in the event of their being drawn; and as it is also possible that many of the subscribers if they were apprized of your declaration would prefer the acceptance of the redemption, which you have recommended, to that of bills granted with such a hazard, we resolved to publish such extracts from your letter as comprehend this declaration, and allowed the subscribers an option to accept bills, according to our original engagements, or orders on the treasury for the amount of the respective sums subscribed, with interest in preference to all other demands and to all other orders on the treasury even of prior date. A copy of the advertizement, issued on this occasion, goes enclosed, and we beg leave to refer you to it.

11. It was not without the most inexpressible regret that we found ourselves reduced to allow the subscribers to accept bills according to our original engagements, because we very much fear it will be productive of many of the consequences which we have stated as likely to follow the literal execution of your implied commands, since there can be no doubt but the insecurity of the bills which may be granted in conformity to our original engagements will deter many of the subscribers from accepting them and rather induce them to prefer an immediate reimburse-

ment of their loans to the hazard of being, at length, reduced to submit to a repayment ordered at a remote period and rendered even then indefinite by the distress which this additional load of debt will throw upon our treasury.

12. We apprehend many will be inclined to suspect that if the practice is once introduced of invalidating the pecuniary acts of this Government it will lead to the next step of confounding their claims with those of the common bond creditors. The only expedient which occurred for obviating this consequence is to reduce the provision of the investment from the sum originally allotted for it to a sum proportional to the payment which this act will exact from the treasury, and approaching nearer to the proportional amount of the sum stated in your report to the House of Commons for the investment of the year 1784/5.

13. Your commands contained in the 2nd paragraph of your letter of the 23rd April respecting the investment contracts were communicated to the Board of Trade immediately on their receipt, and having been furnished, though imperfectly, with an account of the engagements with the present agents and contractors for the investment we thought it necessary to come to a final decision on the subject which has long engaged our attention and employed us in a variety of discussion with the Board of Trade upon the question of carrying literally into execution your orders to advertize for proposals for the contracts to be executed for the investment of this season. "Resolved unanimously that the Board of Trade be permitted to confirm the engagements which they have made with their present agents and contractors for the provision of the investment for this year, with the reservation of the amount of each provision until they shall be furnished with our final resolution upon that subject, which must be determined by their reply to our letter of the 27th September requiring their estimate of the list of investment ordered by the Court of Directors."

14. We beg leave to refer you to the minute of this Board on the subject, which is transmitted a number in the packet, and will fully explain the reasons of this deviation from your orders, and we trust ensure us your approbation of the measure.

15. The correspondence which has passed between the Board of Trade and us on this subject is too voluminous to be sent by this conveyance but shall be forwarded by the first ship. Therein you will observe that we repeatedly exacted of the Board of Trade to carry your commands literally into execution, nor did we desist till we were satisfied that the measure was impracticable for this season, and could not be enforced without real prejudice to your interests.

16. We shall be truly happy if the measures which we have adopted in consequence of your commands of the 15th June shall meet with your approbation, and on an attentive consideration of the subject we are persuaded you will find that we have pursued the safest course to render



a virtual obedience to your orders, compatible with the preservation of the faith of this Government, or in other words the credit of the Company and the nation in India.

17. The state of the treasury this day is as follows, viz.,

Ready money									
General Treasury	...	...		1,51,669	14	4			
Khalsah	...	...		35,755	0	7			
								1,87,424	14 11
Bills receivable									
General Treasury									
Sicca rupees	10,50,000	0	0	12,18,000	0	0			
Khalsah do.	1,27,063	8	9	1,47,393	11	5			
								13,65,393	11 5
							Current rupees	15,52,818	10 4

Fort William,  
the 13th November 1784.

We have the honor to be etc.

LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1784

*Resolutions regarding the 1784/5 Investment—explanation for deficiency likely to occur in the goods shipped to Europe—protest against the Madras Government for sending to Bengal without previous notice officers and men of the King’s regiments—Bombay and Madras requested not to draw bills on the Bengal treasury—General Stibbert’s opposition to further reduction in army—recruitment of minor cadets to continue—sepoys of Bombay Detachment rewarded for meritorious services—a committee of senior servants appointed for examining the accounts in the Department of Inspection—Prinsep’s claim to indemnity for surrendering his grant of the mines at Rohtas and privilege for coining copper referred to attornies—embargo on the export of grain partly removed.*

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Deeming it absolutely necessary that you should be advised, as early as possible, of the situation of your affairs in this country we have

been induced by the low and advantageous terms upon which the *Surprise* has been again tendered to us, as will appear from the accompanying charterparty of her affreightment, to take up that vessel once more, and particularly for the purposes of advising you of the death of Mr. Wheeler and to convey a copy of our reply to your commands of the 15th June received via Bussorah.

2. From the Secret Department you will be informed of the state of affairs in a political view. The Revenue Letter will advise you of the situation of these provinces respecting the revenues, and the Board of Trade will acquaint you with their transactions since the departure of the *Earl of Oxford*. It is therefore only left to us, in this letter, to notify to you such occurrences as have passed in the General Department.

3. We proceed by acknowledging the receipt of your letters which have arrived here since our last dispatch. viz., three of the  
 16th March, received here 28th August  
 23rd April do do do  
 15th June and one from your Secretary of the  
 16th June received on the 4th November.

4. The *Earl of Oxford* the last ship dispatched by [for] carrying you our letter of the 15th March, of which we enclose quadruplicate together with duplicate of our letter of the 1st April by Colonel Morgan, and duplicate of one under date 23rd August by the *Copenhagen*, Danish India-man. We also enclosed you the sixth copy of our letter sent overland under date 13th ultimo in reply to your commands of the 15th June.

5. On the receipt of this letter you will feel the embarrassment to which the orders contained in it subjected us, and we trust the reasons assigned for our conduct, in consequence, will have  
 Consultations 8th due weight. The letter itself and our proceedings on  
 and 9th November. this subject are so circumstantial that we beg leave to refer you to them for a full elucidation of our conduct, and we trust it will prove satisfactory.

6. On the 27th September we called upon the Board of Trade to furnish us with an estimate of the amount of the investment ordered by you in the list transmitted by the *Surprise*, and received the account required in a letter dated the 15th ultimo, recorded on the 22nd of the same month.

7. We immediately took into consideration your late orders on the subject of the investment, your expectations relative to the amount of it, as reported to the Honourable House of Commons, together with the means in our power to fulfill those expectations, and have come to the following resolutions, viz.,

“Resolved, that the sum of 36,22,000 current rupees be advanced to the Board of Trade for the provision of the investment of the year 1784/5, in addition to the produce of their import sales which they have estimated at current rupees 9,00,000.”

“Resolved, that the above sum of 36,22,000 current rupees and the produce of the import sales, making together 45,22,000 current rupees, be the amount allotted for the provision of every article composing the investment for the year 1784/5.”

“Resolved, that in part payment of the above sum of 36,22,000 current rupees an order on the treasury for current rupees 15,00,000 be granted to the Board of Trade immediately for the provision of the silk investment for 1784/5 in full for the supply of that article.”

“Resolved, that the charges of the Commercial Establishment not included in the invoice cost of the goods by the Board of Trade be paid from this Department, in orders to be granted upon the treasury monthly, the accounts thereof having been previously submitted to the Board.”

8. At the same time that we communicated these resolutions to the Board of Trade we informed them that as they had stated in their letter several articles of investment in addition to those included in your list, you would hold them responsible for the quality, the quantity and the assortment, and that we left it to them to apportion the sum allotted to such articles as in their judgement would turn out most to the Company's interest.

9. Since the foregoing resolutions, limiting the advances for the investment to forty five lacks of rupees, we have received a letter from the Board of Trade applying for an increase of 1,62,000 rupees on account of raw silk, also an advance of three lacks of rupees for saltpetre, and recommending other alterations—their letter, the 29th November. minute of the Board entered upon it and our reply are recorded in the consultation noted in the margin, and go numbers in the packet, to which we beg leave to refer.

10. On the receipt of your letter of the 16th March 1784 we transmitted to our Accountant General the report which you submitted to the Honourable House of Commons under date of the 14th February, and directed him generally to lay before us his observations thereon arranged under certain heads of an enquiry as are adverted to in our proceedings and particularly to point out the alterations which he might suppose would have taken place on your judgment had you been in possession of the information contained in the accounts sent you by the *Nurbuddah*.

11. But as the investigations which this order led to were not completed when your advices of the 15th June arrived we thought proper to

rescind our resolutions of the 2nd September, since the necessity of them had been principally done away by the report which, on the 31st May 1784, you delivered to the Honourable House of Commons.

12. You will however find that on the 11th September 1784, at the recommendation of the Accountant General [we] called upon the Board of Trade to explain the cause of a considerable disappointment which we apprehended you would experience in not having goods consigned to you from the produce of the funds that had been assigned by us to the investment of the years 1782/3 and 1783/4 to such an amount as was expected by the 3rd number of the appendix to your first report. We anxiously wished to have transmitted this information by the earliest dispatch but as the letter from the Board of Trade, dated 2nd November, did not completely afford it (though the same was intended as a reply to our letter of 11th September) but led to further remarks from the Accountant General we repeated our requisition for a speedy explanation of all the circumstances suggested by him.

13. We considered it highly and immediately incumbent upon us to point out how far it was probable that the amount of goods exported by the Board of Trade, on the ships dispatched in 1783/4, together with the goods which they expect to be able to export, provided by the supplies granted previous to the 1st March 1784, would fall short of the sum at which these were computed by your Honourable Court, in conformity to the estimate prepared by us with the assistance of the late President of the Board of Trade, who attended at our meeting in this Department on 15th April 1783. The complete proceedings of that day were transmitted for their information, and consequently must exonerate us from the charge of having misled your Honourable Court. Not till the arrival of your report of the 14th February 1784 could we imagine that any deficiency would exist, since neither the probable cause nor the real existence of any deficiency were ever suggested to us by the late President or by the Board of Trade collectively; we have therefore thought it advisable to transmit a copy of the correspondence which has passed between us and the Board of Trade upon this subject to convince you that we have taken every necessary measure to be able to account in the fullest manner for the occasion of a disappointment which you are likely to experience to so considerable an amount.

14. And that you may be enabled to form the most complete idea of the probable extent of this disappointment the following is an estimate of it, framed from the statements exhibited in the letter from the Board of Trade of 9th July 1784, viz.,

Amount of the cargoes laden in the ships

*Resolution, Hinchinbrooke, Worcester*  
*and Norfolk* ... ..

... 61,05,840 0 0

Amount of the goods expected to be received

at the Presidency by the 1st February 1784

... 1,56,48,288 0 0



Amount by the orders granted upon our treasury on account of the subscription investment of 1782/3 exceeded the sum to which it was first limited, and agreeably to which your expectations were formed	13,43,247	9	0
Amount of the orders granted on our treasury on account of the investment of 1783/4	... 1,24,14,865	0	4
Total	... 3,55,12,240	9	4
<hr/>			
The amount of goods exported by the Board of Trade in 1783/4 was ...	2,13,63,553	0	0
The amount of goods which by their letter of 9th July 1784 they expected to be received at the Presidency by the 10th March '85	... 1,18,32,228	13	9
	3,31,95,781	13	9
Deficiency by these data	... 2,13,16,458	11	7

15. We cannot however consider the whole of this sum of 2,3,16,458-11-7 as a positive deficiency, as there may and most probably will be goods to a considerable amount forthcoming from it, though not laden upon the ships by which you might have reasonably expected to have received it, and will be consigned to you by others to be dispatched from hence in a subsequent year. These circumstances, we apprehend, furnish strong grounds for supposing that the outstanding balances of the Commercial Department must have been considerably augmented, but as we have, in a letter addressed to the Board of Trade, required those of each year to be invariably exhibited in the statements of the quick stock of their Department, and as you will in consequence of the regulations which on the 19th July we adopted at the Accountant General's request be enabled to judge of the occasional amount of these balances, you will be able also to judge how far this deficiency is likely to have arisen from their increase.

16. We have however but too much reason to apprehend that as the Board of Trade have in their letter of the 14th September 1784 represented seven as the greatest number of ships they can engage to load by 10th March 1785, which at the average of 14 lacks assigned to each by their letter of the 9th July 1784 amounts to no more than 98 lacks the deficiency before stated, formed on a supposition that they would have 118 lacks to lade by that time, will fall short of the amount of the immediate disappointment in your expectations of the cargoes which we might have to lade by the ships now here, and those expected in time to be dispatched before 10th March 1785, since the following, which is a statement of what might reasonably have been expected to have been realized by 10th March 1785, exhibits an amount far above what the Board of Trade expect to be able to export by that period.

17. The amount of the orders which we have granted to the Board of Trade on account of the investment of 1783/4 is ... 1,08,46,000 0 0

Deduct the amount of this year's investment realized by them, and exported on the ships dispatched in 1783/4 as stated by their letter of the 9th July 1784

4,68,074 2 3

1,03,77,925 13 9

Amount which the Board of Trade in their letter 2nd November in reply to a letter from us of 11th September recorded upon our proceedings in this Department state as the article balance of goods in the warehouse on 30th April 1784 ... 31,15,986 15 10

The amount which they had then realized on the account of the investment of 1783/4 was ... 20,43,907 2 3

Deduct the amount of which they had exported ... 4,68,074 2 3

15,75,833 0 0

Remains the amount which must on the 30th April 1784 have been in their warehouse on account of the investment of former years ...

15,40,153 15 10

1,19,18,079 13 7

18. The above is certainly the amount which, from the most recent information we have received from the Board of Trade, we might expect to be realized in time to be laden upon ships dispatched from hence before 10th March 1785. This would complete the cargoes of 8 ships and an half. In justice however to the Board of Trade we must suppose that the difficulties which their contractors have met with in realizing their drafts upon our treasury beyond what they might have expected when they entered into engagements with the Board of Trade, from the competition which a constant succession of fresh demands upon our treasury for the discharge of Madrass bills, to a very considerable amount has occasioned their inability to complete their deliveries in the usual time, a conclusion which we cannot but draw from the amount which was unpaid on the 31st October 1784 from the General Treasury, on the orders which we had granted them on account of the investment of 1783/4, which was current rupees 18,18,209-5-5, of which sum current rupees 9,31,542-2-3 had been drawn for by them in favor of their contractors, the owners thereof were consequently still subject to that competition to which we have before adverted.

19. The foregoing observations must forcibly explain to you the distress in which we should have been involved by an implicit obedience to your commands of the 15th June 1784 had not the expedient of the optional offer tendered to the subscribers to the loan, for which bills were promised to be granted on 1st February 1785, been adopted, as the effects of the total redemption of these subscriptions in Bengal must have operated in the same manner in retarding the deliveries of the proceeds of the sums assigned for the provision of the investments of future years.

20. In the 12th paragraph of your letter of the 28th January you desire us to afford such assistance to the other Presidencies as to prevent their drawing upon you we should be truly happy were it in our power to comply in the fullest extent with these orders but that is impossible; the situation of this Government in point of resources, and of our inability to fulfill your expectations will best appear from the statement of resources and disbursements transmitted you a number in the packet.

21. Previous to the receipt of this statement we had in obedience to your injunctions relative to the exigencies of the Presidency of Fort Marlborough sent thither a remittance to the amount of 2 lacks of rupees, and beg to refer you for the measures adopted in consequence to our proceedings on this head.

2nd & 3rd June.  
19th July.  
16th September.

22. In the letter from the President and Council of Fort Marlborough of 11th April last they represent the coins we had formerly dispatched them to have proved advantageous and desired a further supply, we therefore coined the bullion paid in by Mr. Ferguson accordingly, and directed Mr. Princep to strike off 400 maunds of Bencoolen pice as before, ordering his indents for the quantity of copper necessary for that purpose to be complied with from the Company's stores. These supplies with a quantity of opium were transmitted to Fort Marlborough by the *Intelligence*, on which vessel Lieutenant Colonel Murray returned to his command at that Presidency. We have further accepted their bills to the amount of current rupees 1,23,929-1-4.

16th September.

23. We find it totally impossible to make any remittances to Canton this season, either in opium, by bills, or in specie, but we understand a great part of the produce of the opium of this season will be paid into your treasury by individuals, which will enable the supracargoes to provide your investment.

24. We have accepted bills from Bombay for 3 lacks of rupees drawn professedly for a cargo of Mocha coffee to be consigned to you, but have been compelled positively to forbid the President and Council there from drawing on us for the provision of an investment on any account without first obtaining our sanction to such a measure. We have however made them a remittance from Lucknow of five lacks, and authorized them in cases of the most pressing necessity to draw for five lacks more.

25. We have also been compelled peremptorily to require the Presidency of Fort St. George to desist from drawing on us without our previous permission, the continuance of their drafts having been very prejudicial to our credit, and in a great degree the means of keeping the orders on our treasury at a very high discount equal, we understand, to 15 per cent.

26. On the 5th July we received a letter from the Right Honourable the President and Council of Fort St. George advising us of their having embarked 120 men of the 73rd Regiment on the *Berrington* to be provided with conveyances to Europe from hence. Since that period they have continued sending King's officers and men belonging to the regiments on the Coast by every Indiaman or other vessels sailing from thence for Bengal without giving us the least previous intimation of such intention, although the *Pigot*, one of your chartered ships with nearly half a cargo on board, sailed from hence in February last and has been under their orders since that time. It is needless to point out to you the great saving which would have accrued to the Honourable Company had that vessel been dispatched to Europe immediately with as many officers and troops as could be accommodated on board instead of delaying her a whole season.

27. The embarrassments and difficulties to which we have been subjected by the sudden arrival of so many King's officers and troops, the increase of expence incurred in the transportation of them from place to place, the inconvenience to which our troops as well as those of His Majesty have been put for want of accommodation in consequence of so great a number being sent, will strike you with the same force as we have had the mortification to feel it, and your censure will doubtless fall upon the authors of a measure so unwise, so unprecedented, and at the same time so cruel after the sufferings these officers and men had experienced during the hardships and fatigues of the war.

28. It may and no doubt will be urged that there was not tonnage at Madras to convey the King's troops to England; we admit it but all the chartered ships from hence might have been directed to touch there, for the express purposes of receiving them on board, and this we conceive would have been the easiest and less expensive mode.

29. The state of the arrears to these officers and men, the exigencies of the recruiting service and the indispensable necessity of procuring funds, not only for all these unexpected disbursements but for the usual advance of 6 months' pay and allowance to each rank, has been severely felt by our treasury. Indeed we were obliged to stop the issues of cash to every department under this Government until these demands were provided for.

30. We have been involved in great perplexity from the evident misconstruction put upon the letter\*and spirit of His Majesty's commands by Major General Campbell respecting recruiting from His Majesty's regiments, signified to you under date the 10th September 1783 and communicated to us by  
 Consultations 21st  
 & 29th October.



the *Swallow* packet. This matter however is of so delicate a nature that we shall, in this place, only refer you to the correspondence which has passed between us and Colonel Gordon, and to our proceedings thereon as noted in the margin.

31. When we considered the number of King's officers who would require conveyances to Europe, for the purpose of ordering them accommodations on the homeward bound Indiamen we found that eighty-four were already arrived besides more expected from Masulipatam. This number is too great to be properly accommodated on the ships of the present season without subjecting them to the greatest inconvenience from the encroachment upon their tonnage, and probable distress from the extraordinary quantity of water and fresh provisions necessary for the subsistence of so many, exclusive of the disadvantages even arising from being over crowded; we therefore resolved to offer an allowance of *sicca* rupees 4,000 to field officers and 2,000 to others under that rank to provide themselves with conveyances on foreign ships. Some have accepted this offer with an intention of proceeding overland but others have declined it from the impossibility of getting passages at that rate; we have however required the commander of each Indiaman to receive 7 commissioned officers, and accommodate them with passages to England. Any further arrangements that take place will be duely notified to you.

32. The variety of allowances claimed by His Majesty's officers from the Company, and the intricacy of their accounts, part of some of the regiments being prisoners many months and others having received advances at different Presidencies, rendering it absolutely necessary to appoint an intelligent and trusty person to this charge, that these disbursements may be kept entirely distinct from those of the army in general, we considered the gentleman established here as Deputy Paymaster to the King's troops the fittest for this employment; and have accordingly appointed Mr. A. McAulay, Deputy Paymaster to the King's troops on the part of the Company, with the same allowances as their Deputy Paymaster General.

33. We transmit you a number in the packet a letter lately received from the Deputy Paymaster to the King's troops covering a statement of the balances said to be due to the Crown from the 24th June 1781, the period at which the agreement with the Company commenced, to the 24th of June 1784 inclusive.

34. Application has been made to the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay for an account of all advances issued to His Majesty's troops. When we receive this account it shall be transmitted to you with a complete account of the sums paid here, that you may be enabled to settle the claims of the Crown finally with His Majesty's Paymaster General or at the War Office.

35. On the 2nd of August we resolved on a further reduction of your military expences, and our minutes on the subject were accordingly

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sent to the Commander in Chief to be carried into immediate execution, but the mode we adopted, though founded on principles of liberality never before practised in Indostan, not meeting with his approbation, on the impulse of the moment he addressed us a letter couched in terms which we deemed disrespectful and unbecoming. Representation thereof having been made to him signifying that we would yield to his arguments, in the first instance, by altering our minutes to the form entered in Consultation 8th September he desired to withdraw that letter and substitute

Consultations 8th  
September & 9th  
October.

another, to which we consented, but still finding [it] contrary to our [interest] an[d] [in] opposition to our sentiments we resolved to enter all the papers on this subject upon our records, and beg your particular attention to them as noted in the margin.

36. We do not wish to pass any censure on General Stibbert as we are confident that he has been actuated by his zeal for the public service, but we are sorry that this contention has been the cause of so much delay in our intentions which, from a reconsideration of the subject comparatively with the mode recommended by him, were not finally adjusted and passed till the 27th September, and their effect did not commence till the 1st of last month, a delay which we would not have permitted any objection started by the Commander in Chief to have occasioned had the state of the treasury enabled us to have carried this reduction into execution earlier by making the necessary disbursements to the reformed troops.

37. Having found it necessary during the late war to invest the commanding officers of detachments on distant service with powers to carry into execution the sentences of courts martial we were happy to avail ourselves of the fortunate return of peace to revoke this authority, which, we are concerned to observe, has not always been conducted, in our opinion, according to strict principles of form and justice. We now allude to the trial of Captain Farmer.

38. On the demise of Major Bruce the late Adjutant General your Commander in Chief thought proper to invest Captain Peter Murray with the charge of that office, and repeatedly urged us to confirm the appointment. We have long been convinced of the necessity of such an office, as is evident from the various applications we have made to you to authorize it, but we could not be prevailed upon, since the receipt of your last orders forbidding it, to confirm or acknowledge Captain Murray even as acting Adjutant General till your further pleasure should be known, until the repeated and importunate representations from the Commander in Chief affirming that the appointment of an officer to conduct this duty

Consultation 21st  
June.

was indispensable, and the absolute necessity of the establishment annexed to that office; we therefore agreed to permit Captain Murray to execute the duties and draw the establishment of the office subject to your pleasure as recorded in our consultations.

39. Having published in General Orders our resolution to appoint no more cadets, in consequence of your directions to that effect, it was our intention to have strictly adhered to the resolution, but Colonels Morgan and Pearse, commanding the detachments on service at Bombay and in the Carnatic, having previous to their receipt of this publication appointed Messrs. Douglas, Campbell and Ramsay, who served with them all the war as volunteers and had distinguished themselves by their ardour and military spirit, we thought a justice due to their merit to comply with the strong recommendations of their commanding officers, and agreed to admit them as having been nominated prior to the possibility of our orders having effect. We hope therefore you will be pleased to confirm their appointments.

40. From the number of minor cadets that had lately been appointed we resolved to suspend the further increase of them for some time, but very few applications having been since received we  
 Consultation 21st June. have thought proper to comply with them, as this establishment is no great burthen to the service and is the only prospect the children of junior officers have for a suitable education or maintenance; we shall continue to comply with applications for such as we may deem proper objects.

41. A court martial for the trial of Major Adderley having been assembled in Calcutta by virtue of a warrant issued to the Commander in Chief, on the close of the proceedings he directed the court to proceed on the trial of Lieutenant Thompson, but this they declined without an order from the Governor General and Council, and adjourned *sine die*.

42. General Stibbert thereupon requested Mr. Wheeler, the senior member of the Board in Calcutta, to issue an order in garrison to that effect, and to obtain a decision of the Council on the matter of right he conceived rested upon him to direct the court to proceed on any further trial, but an order having been previously issued for the court martial to sit on the trial of all prisoners that might be brought before them, which was communicated to the Commander in Chief, with information at the same time that the orders recommended by him became unnecessary, and that the subject of right which he claimed should be discussed at a fuller Board, in this he acquiesced and gave his reasons for desiring our decision on the point in question. We have not yet had time to take this matter into consideration, but think none should be lost in noting it to you.

43. We are sorry to inform you that Lieutenant Thompson was cashiered, upon his application we granted him an order for a charter-party passage on the *Vansittart*.

44. Lieutenant Dick, preferring his rank on this establishment, has desired to relinquish his appointment at Bombay, which has accordingly been notified to the President  
 Consultation 19th July. and Council there.

45. Captain Gowith, who resigned your service on account of his ill health and was proceeding to Europe some years ago upon the pension, was detained a prisoner all the war at the Cape, and upon his enlargement returned to Bengal. We have in consideration of the hardships he has suffered and the distress he has been in restored him to his former rank in the invalid corps, and allowed him his arrears.

46. In our consultations noted in the margin you will observe the honourable marks of distinction which we were induced to confer on the Consultation [. . . . .] sepoy's of the Bombay Detachment on their return to this side of India. The faithful and approved services of these troops merited every mark of favour and encouragement that we could devise consistent with a due attention to your interests. In addition therefore to the rewards before given we were happy in adopting a recommendation of Mr. Thomas Law, your Collector of Gaya, to exempt such as were Hindoos from the duties which are generally collected at that place, and particularly so when this invaluable benefit is to be allowed without any deduction in the collections; the *Aumil* having very liberally promised to accede to an indulgence so well applied.

47. The Board of Ordnance having represented to us that slings and bayonet scabbards can be made at a much cheaper rate in this country than is charged in your invoices of those articles, which we have received, we request that all further supplies of them may be discontinued.

48. In your letter of the 25th January 1782 you informed us that lists of the names and rank of cadets should be conveyed to us by the latter ships, and that certificates in the meantime would be granted by your Secretary; we have received the lists, but from the number of blanks remaining in them we are unable to fix the rank of any cadets since the year 1780, as several gentlemen have produced certificates of appointments whose names do not appear in the lists. Not knowing whether any of these were intended to fill up the blanks or whether they have been appointed in consequence of vacancies occasioned by death or resignation in Europe we request you will cause complete lists to be forwarded to us from the year 1780.

49. On the arrival of your chartered ships of this season we summoned the passengers before us, conformably to your orders, to give an account of their treatment during the voyage, and beg Consultation 19th July. to refer you to our consultations for their replies. We cannot in justice to the commanders of the *Valentine*, *Hillsborough* and *Mansfield* pass unnoticed the favorable representation of their conduct by every passenger on board their ships, which convinced us that the best and most satisfactory treatment had been received by all. We therefore ordered our thanks to be communicated to Captains Lewis, Hardcastle and Frazer, and promised to notify the same to you.

50. Major Adderley who came out on the *Berrington* having been



left at Fort St. George was unable to appear with the other passengers of that ship, but having been brought to a court martial upon his arrival on charges preferred against him by Captain Johnston we cannot do better than refer you at large to the proceedings of the court, and we beg leave to call your particular attention to it.

51. In the consultation noted in the margin is recorded a representation from Captain Montgomerie setting forth that the voyage of the *Besborough*, under his command, had been altered and that he had been employed on service with the *Southampton* and *Nassau* when our fleet under Sir Edward Vernon<sup>1</sup> lay before Pondicherry, that he had relinquished great private advantages to promote the public service, that he and his officers were precisely in the same situation with Captains Lennox and Gore and their officers but that he had not received a similar reward as was granted to them on account of the losses incurred by that service, and requesting to be put on the same footing as his brother officers, alledging that to grant a reward to two ships and leave his out would be equal to the severest censure on himself and officers. Deeming this claim to be just we could not but consider Captain Montgomerie entitled to the same indulgence as the commanders and officers of the *Southampton* and *Nassau*, and therefore complied with his request subject however to your concurrence. His Attorney, Mr. Ferguson, has therefore become security to repay the amount issued to him within ten days after it shall be demanded should you direct it.

52. In our letter of 23rd August we advised you of the unfortunate loss of the *Major*, and now transmit you the proceedings of the court of enquiry into the circumstances thereof a separate number in the packet for your satisfaction.

53. The ships under dispatch are:  
     *The Southampton* and *Vansittart* } to sail 10th December.  
     *Besborough* and *Valentine* } to sail 25th December.

The *Mansfield*, *Hillsborough* and *Berrington* will be dispatched as soon after as their lading can be completed, which we hope will be in all [sic] January.

54. Our wish to see every branch of your service faithfully discharged, no less than our regard for a very worthy individual induces us to recommend Captain Cudbert Thornhill to the honor of your notice. He is desirous of succeeding to the office of Master Attendant when it shall be vacated by Mr. Bowey, the gentleman who at present holds it; an office for which the pursuits of Captain Thornhill have eminently qualified him. He has lived no less than one and thirty years in India, twenty years of which he has traded as a merchant from this port to every other in India and till lately always commanded one of his own ships. Such pursuits have not only made him acquainted with the general trade of India but as a merchant of Calcutta have particularly instructed him

in the navigation of this river and in the laws and customs observed in it. His private character is universally esteemed, and such is our opinion of his integrity, his naval and commercial knowledge that when we have required information upon subjects of that kind we have frequently sought and received it from him. He is known to many gentlemen in England and to some, we believe, of your Honourable Court. To their report of him we could trust for the evidence of his merits, and of the propriety of our conduct in recommending them to your attention.

55. The extensive and complicated detail of public business which in the various departments of this Government occupies every portion of our time and attention has produced an effect which we have long individually felt with great regret, but which all our endeavours to remedy have unavoidably proved ineffectual.

56. The business in the Department of Inspection, which is of the utmost importance both to the Company and to individuals, had insensibly fallen so much behind that some measure for bringing it into a regular train, and preventing the effect in future, became absolutely necessary.

57. The minute process of investigation and the tediousness of application, which a decision on intricate claims in disputed accounts requires, we had experimentally found incompatible with that allotment of our time of collective attendance to which the pressing and separately more important objects of Government obliged us to adhere.

58. We felt it therefore our indispensable duty to form an arrangement which, reserving to our own consideration and decision such subjects as were the proper objects of our immediate care, would relieve us from a load of detail which it was out of our power to go through without an irregularity and often precipitancy which counteracted in its effect the purposes of the institution.

59. We therefore resolved to appoint a committee of your senior servants for the purpose of examining the accounts in the Department of Inspection, and investigating all claims which could not be brought  
 25th March. under regular official controul by the established officers of Government, reporting to us the result of their enquiries for our final decision on the subject of them. This arrangement took place accordingly on the 25th March.

60. We particularly refer you to our proceedings noted in the margin  
 Consultations 15th, for the fullest explanation of this subject, and the  
 18th & 24th June. reasons for adopting this measure, which are adduced  
 22nd & 26th July. at large in the several minutes of the members of our  
 8th & 10th September. Board. As a difference of opinion prevailed relative  
 ber. 25th March. to the institution we enclose, numbers in the packet,  
 the several minutes delivered in upon this subject.

61. You will find by our proceedings of the 22nd March 1784 that we had called upon the Accountant General to explain to us the material difference which may be observed between the statements of the quick and dead stock of this Presidency and its subordinates forwarded by the *Earl of Oxford*, and those which had been previously transmitted to you, in obedience to this order, on the 31st of the same month. He submitted to us the information which it required, but as he has requested that copies of his letters of the 6th instant and 31st March 1784 may go separate numbers in this dispatch we have complied with his request, and hope that the information which these must afford will be satisfactory.

62. The contract for victualling the garrison expiring on the 4th October we advertized to the necessity of appointing a proper person to receive charge of the depot. Mr. Belli was engaged  
 Consultation 16th September. thereby to make [*sic*] at the respective periods on which the several branches of it should be deliverable, and accordingly invested Mr. R. C. Plowden with this charge, allowing a commission of 8 per cent on such purchases and sales as we might hereafter think proper to direct; for our minutes constituting this appointment we beg to refer you to our Consultation 21st September 1784.

63. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the first sales took place on the 2nd instant according to the mode prescribed in the Consultation above referred, and in justice to Mr. Belli  
 Consultation 16th September. we deem it incumbent on us to state the amount for which the above articles were laid in by him, viz., A. Rs. 26,950 and the amount of their sales 45,252, difference A. Rs. 18,302. Such an instance of integrity as is proved by the above difference, which becomes a clear profit to the Company, deserves our highest encomiums.

64. Mr. Belli finding it necessary for the benefit of his health to return to Europe this season desired our permission to resign your service, which we have granted.

65. As you have been pleased to direct in the 8th paragraph of your General Letter 23rd January 1783 that the merits or demerits of your servants returning to Europe shall be stated in the most impartial manner, and as this gentleman's conduct throughout has been so exemplary and meritorious as to have obtained our unanimous approbation and countenance we cannot let his resignation pass by without particularly recommending him to your notice, and earnestly requesting, as no condition or behaviour in life can always command prosperity, that he may be again restored to his rank in your service should any unforeseen events render his return to this country necessary. That you may be more deeply impressed with the real opinion we entertain of his merits and the consequent sincerity of this intercession in his favour, we have furnished you with a copy of his letter of resignation and of our minutes thereon separate numbers in the packet.

66. We communicated to Mr. Paxton the paragraph of your letter

to us of the 16th March declaring your intention to oppose his application for the restitution of monies paid by him into the Dutch treasury at Chinsurah previous to the capture of that place. His reply having convinced us that the transaction was concluded prior to any knowledge of the prohibition of loans to foreigners and the motives which led to it originating in principles of humanity we beg leave to call your particular attention to the circumstances, and according[ly] transmit his letter a separate number in the packet.

67. In obedience to your commands we directed our Civil Paymaster to call upon Sir John Day to refund the extra allowances which had been granted to him subject to your approbation, but in consideration of the hardships he has complained of we have complied with his earnest request in allowing him to repay the amount at the expiration of twelve months.

Consultation 1st  
September.

68. Having in obedience to your orders of the 1st March 1783, paragraph 3rd, directed our Secretary and Accountant General to compile a complete list of your civil servants, with a correct account of the salaries and allowances to the latest period, we have now the pleasure to transmit you a copy thereof. At the same time that we call your attention to our correspondence on this subject with the Board of Trade we must remark that the advantages of the Board of Trade and your servants in the Commercial Department depend on contracts and agencies.

69. On receipt of your orders of 25th January 1782 we immediately called upon Mr. Prinsep to surrender his grant of the mines at Rotas and Monghyr and privilege for coining of copper, and directed him to deliver up the dyes and every implement of coinage in his possession. But the time within which a reservation had been made in the deed of your repeal of this grant having expired by a lapse of twelve days (though we conceived the period of three years which had been allowed for the receipt of your orders on this head full sufficient to provide against accidental delays) Mr. Prinsep required a confirmation of the grant, in consequence, to its full extent of twenty seven years; but in submission to your commands he declared his readiness to pay implicit obedience to them on being indemnified for losses and expences he alleged having unavoidably incurred in working the mines and bringing the coinage to perfection. We cannot in this place deny him the justice to admit that his mint has greatly exceeded our expectations, and has no doubt been of service since the scarcity of bullion has been so great as to occasion the most alarming impediments in the general and necessary currency of this country. We had established a practice of issuing one per cent in copper money, which is now observed in all payments, and we have reason to think that the regulations and restrictions to which this work was subject would have rendered it, in the course of time, an establishment of great utility and advantage to the Company, and would doubtless have obtained a preference over cowries in exchange for the necessaries of life among the lower classes of people, not to speak of the benefits that would have accrued to the British nation when taken in a political view by the



employment of so much copper, as the original plan of coining the copper from the mines of this country was set aside, and none but Europe copper admitted, besides reserving the quantity of specie that was annually exported to the Maldives for cowries to these provinces.

70. The indemnity claimed by Mr. Prinsep amounted to so large a sum that however inclined we might be to reward his merit we did not deem ourselves authorized to comply with his demands, and upon declaring a resolution of ultimately trying his claims in Chancery we resolved to take the advice of our Advocate General, and being furnished with his opinion we again demanded the surrender of the grant &ca., &ca., but Mr. Prinsep representing in the strongest terms the ruin that would inevitably be his fate without some compensation for merely the losses which he sustained, estimating them, by accounts delivered in upon honor which he offered to vouch by the most solemn affidavit, at current rupees 1,65,389-13-6, and praying at the same time that he might be allowed to prove them before any persons we would appoint to arbitrate his demands, we considered this proposal so fair and equitable that upon his agreeing to restrict the amount to the above sum we consented to refer them to the decision of Messrs. Croftes, Alexander and Paxton, as men of judgment and abilities equal to the task, and characters superior to the power of influence or partiality.

71. This matter has in consequence been referred to these gentlemen whose award is to be delivered in on the 31st of this month, and shall be notified to you by the first ship that sails after that period.

72. In our proceedings of 29th May 1783 you will observe the difficulties to which we are reduced in endeavouring wholly to comply with your orders to remove all persons from civil employment who did not absolutely belong to our establishment. Among several instances of this nature the case of Mr. Motte occurs. He had succeeded the late Mr. Playdell in the office of Superintendent of the Police, which having been regularly established by a bye law it was deemed impracticable legally to remove him unless some act of delinquency were proved against him.

73. Mr. Sherburn, one of your oldest civil servants, had long acted in the capacity of Deputy, but there being no immediate prospect of his succession, the emoluments of the inferior office being infinitely inadequate to the duties, and above all his great length of service leading him into a belief that some degree of stigma would be incurred were he still to continue under a man who not being in the list of your servants was consequently deemed his inferior, he accordingly resigned on 15th July.

74. Many days having elapsed after his resignation and no applications having been made by any of your servants to succeed him we were induced to believe that the objections which had been stated by Mr. Sherburn had equal weight with all your servants. And as the necessary duties of the office could not be carried on without the early appointment of a successor we judged it incumbent upon us to make choice of one of

the oldest inhabitants of this town, whose respectable character, long residence and knowledge of the language and customs of the natives rendered him a proper person to fill it with credit, and selected Mr. John Miller for the trust.

75. The same inducements operated with us to make choice of Mr. Robert McFarlane of equal good character and capacity to execute the duties of Clerk of the Market, which employ we thought it advisable to separate wholly from the office of police, as it was formerly in order to obviate the numerous impositions and other inconveniencies to which the inhabitants at large were daily becoming more subject from the inability of one person alone to superintend and controul the extensive dealings and transactions of this increasing settlement.

76. Some arrangements for this office were adopted immediately on Mr. McFarlane's taking charge, and shortly afterwards he proposed to us additional regulations which, having Consultations 26th July and 23rd August. met with our unanimous approbation, your law officers were accordingly directed to prepare them in the form of a bye law, for the early and complete confirmation of the Supreme Court.

77. The subscribers to the remittance loan of 35 lacks of rupees having applied to be put on the same footing as those to the loan advertized for in October 1783 we gave our assent to this indulgence, and the bills will be granted for the principal and interest which will be due thereupon accordingly.

78. We are much concerned that you should have of late had reason to complain of the Indexes to our Consultations. We have given particular directions for that point of official duty to be strictly attended to by our Sub Secretary who is charged with the compilation of it, and we hope you will find the Index at present sent home from this Department executed to your satisfaction, and sufficiently full and clear upon every reference you may have occasion to make to our consultations.

79. We have the most sensible pleasure in advising you that the present appearance of a plentiful harvest has induced us to take off the embargo on the exportation of grain under certain restrictions which will appear in our consultations, as we think no caution too great when the lives of millions are concerned in the present case.

80. The state of the treasury this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	65,918	7	6	
Khalsah	...	...	39,078	1	11	
						1,04,996 9 5

## Bills receivable

## General Treasury

Sicca rupees	10,50,000	0	0	12,18,000	0	0	
Khalsah							
Sicca rupees	97,187	8	9	1,12,737	8	11	
							13,30,737 8 11

## Unsorted treasure

## Khalsah

From Burdwan rupees 2,297-5

Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees ... 2,527 0 9

Current rupees 14,38,261 3 1

Balance account deposit	...	11,39,519	12	11	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertizement	...	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,66,69,607	12	11	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	16,96,680	0	0	
					1,96,71,086 7 8

Fort William,  
the 10th December 1784.We have the honor to be,  
Honourable Sirs etc.

## LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1784

*Accountant General's observations regarding early settlement of Company's debts in India transmitted to the Court.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The investigation to which our Accountant General was led, in obedience to our orders of 11th September, having suggested some observations to him on the relative concern which the transactions of this Government had to the expectations which were grounded on your reports

to the Honourable House of Commons of the 14th February and 31st May 1784, although these were originally intended merely for our private inspection yet as we think they contain information of the utmost importance, and clearly exhibit the event is likely to verify your expectations of the Honourable Company's debts in India being discharged in a very little time, after that period by which you had at first expected that they would be discharged, we have therefore directed them to be transmitted to you a separate number in the *Surprize's* packet, and beg leave to recommend them to your serious attention.

Fort William,  
the 10th December 1784.

We have the honor to be,  
Honourable Sirs, etc.

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LETTER DATED 28 DECEMBER 1784

*Dispatch of ships*

#### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] Our dispatches by the *Surprize*, of which we have the honor to enclose you duplicates per *Southampton*, are so full and so recent that we shall defer sending you any of our proceedings in this Department till the departure of the *Valentine*, which will take place on the fifth of next month. At that time we shall transmit you our broken set of proceedings from the sailing of the *Surprize* to the end of the year.

[2] We have the pleasure to inform you that the *Vansittart* and *Besborough* will sail in a day or two after the *Southampton*.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows, viz.,

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	56,718	1	6	
Khalsah	...	...	38,212	8	6	
						94,930 10 0



## Bills receivable

General Treasury									
Sicca rupees	10,50,300	0	0	12,18,000	0	0			
Khalsah do.	77,841	1	0	90,295	10	1			
							<hr/>		
							13,08,295	10	0
							<hr/>		
Current rupees							14,03,226	4	0
Balance account deposits	...			13,07,309	7	2			
Do. Accountant General to the									
Mayor's Court	...			1,20,161	13	9			
Do. of the old bonded debt on									
which the interest has ceased									
by public advertizement	...			45,117	0	8			
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...			1,66,69,607	12	11			
4 per cent remittance loan	...			16,96,680	0	0			
							<hr/>		
							1,98,38,876	2	6

We have the honor to be,  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
Warren Hastings/ John Macpherson/  
John Stables.

Fort William,  
the 28th December 1784.

Received per *Southampton* the 9th June 1785.

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LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 1784

*Shipping details.*

GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] We have now the honor to dispatch to you the *Besborough* and to forward duplicate of our letter by the *Southampton*, also duplicate of

our Separate Letter by the *Surprize* and the Accountant General's observations accompanying.

[2] The amount of the cargo laden on board the *Southampton* is current rupees 13,56,225, that of the *Besborough* is current rupees 14,82,000. The *Vansittart* will take her departure in a day or two, and shortly afterwards we shall again have the pleasure of addressing you by the *Valentine*.

[3] The state of the treasuries this day is the same as we particularly notified in our letter per *Southampton*.

Fort William,  
29th December 1784.

We have the honor to be etc.

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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1785

*Ships dispatched.*

#### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. On the 29th ultimo we wrote you by the *Southampton* and *Besborough* and have now the honor of dispatching the *Vansittart*. The invoice of this ship amounts to current rupees 13,77,100-0-0.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

#### Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	76,829	6	8	
Khalsah	...	...	57,837	7	5	
						1,34,666 14 1

#### Bills receivable

General Treasury						
Sicca rupees	11,56,120	11	1	13,41,100	0	0
Khalsah	3,23,003	5	6	3,74,683	14	0
						17,15,783 14 0
						18,50,450 12 1

## Unsorted treasure

Khalsah			
From Burdwan 7,608-13-5			
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees ...			8,369 11 4
			<hr/>
			Current rupees 18,58,820 7 5
Balance account deposits	...	13,20,557 5 6	
Do. Accomptant General to the			
Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161 13 9	
Do. of old bonded debt on which			
the interest has ceased by			
public advertizement	...	45,117 0 8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,66,69,607 12 11	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	16,96,680 0 0	
			<hr/>
			1,98,52,124 0 10

Fort William,  
the 10th January 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1785

*Tender for Oudh cloth rejected—reasons for providing a small annual investment for Mocha market—services of Perring and Lloyd recommended appointment of the Sheriff of Calcutta—controversy between Colonel Gordon and Lieutenant Colonel Duff over courts martial—Colonel Gordon's proposal for uniting the King's and Company's troops in service rejected—appreciation of the services of Colonels Muir, Popham, Blair and Elliot.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Having had the honor of addressing you by the *Southampton* and *Besborough* we beg leave per *Valentine*, Captain Lewis, to forward tripligate of that letter together with our broken set of proceedings in this Department from the dispatch of the *Surprize* to the end of the year.

2. The *Vansittart's* packet was sent from Calcutta on the 10th instant, the invoice of that ship's cargo amounts to current rupees

13,77,100-0-0, that of the *Valentine* to current rupees 13,15,300-0-0. The *Besborough* and *Southampton* quitted their pilots on the 7th instant.

3. In the consultations noted in the margin you will observe the further correspondence which has passed between us and the Board of Trade on the subject of the investment of 1784/5, to which we beg leave to refer you. It contains little more than an acquiescence on the part of that Board to the small scale to which your commands and the exhausted state of our resources compelled us to confine our advances; we have however the satisfaction to inform you that drafts upon the treasury for the sum allotted have been issued.

Consultations 22nd  
& 29th November.  
21st December.

4. In consequence of the very urgent representations of the Board of Trade we have also issued drafts on the treasury for which bills on the Bahar province will be granted for three lacs of *sicca* rupees, being the sum allowed for the provision of saltpetre for 1784/5. This is not however on any account to be admitted as an increase or alteration in the investment of 1784/5 but to be considered as a separate store and disposed of as may hereafter be determined.

Consultations 29th  
November and 21st  
December.

5. The Board of Trade have received from Mr. John Pendred Scott a tender of Owde cloths to the extent of three lacs of rupees beyond his existing engagements, and recommended our acceptance of it for the purpose of compleating the cargoes of all your ships. We cannot but admit the force of their reasoning on this subject but your restrictive orders and the state of our treasury compelled us to reject it.

6. Understanding that the President and Council at Bombay had made an unsuccessful attempt last year to execute your commands to provide a cargo of coffee in consequence of the low state of the Company's credit at Mocha, and having more ships here than we can dispatch with cargoes to Europe we desired the Board of Trade to provide a small investment fit for the Mocha market, and have resolved to send the *Lord Cambden* to that place with it.

7. It is our intention to repeat this measure annually until we are favored with your sentiments on the advantages of it, and we trust on a perusal of the plan at large, recorded on our proceedings, it will meet with your entire approbation. Our motives for adopting it were the employment of one of your chartered ships, the relief of the Presidency of Bombay by throwing into their possession a valuable cargo provided by our means, a desire to recover the Company's lost credit at Mocha and lastly a compliance as far as lies in our power with your commands.

Consultation 21st  
December.

8. Many individuals having signified their wish to be allowed the same indulgence which was granted last year, conformably to your orders, for permitting raw silk to be shipped on board your homeward bound



Indiamen we restricted all applications of this nature to be delivered in before the 31st December, and have requested the Board of Trade to make the necessary arrangements for admitting the several claimants to this privilege. An account of the quantity will be transmitted you from that Department.

9. We have also received an application for leave to occupy some of your tonnage with indigo and Owde cloths, but did not think proper to comply with this requisition without first taking the sentiments of your Board of Trade upon the subject, and have accordingly refered it for their opinion.

10. Having already advised you of the steps we resolved on, in consequence of your orders of the 15th June 1784, for the redemption of the sums paid into our treasury for bills to be granted on you the first of February next, we have now to acquaint you that on the expiration of the term prescribed for notification thereof, according to our advertizement already transmitted to you, no more than current rupees 2,65,920-1-6 are required to be repaid from our treasury. Consequently we shall be obliged to grant the bills, promised in our several advertizements, for current rupees 66,03,019-3-10.

11. We think it necessary to remark that many individuals are under the necessity of placing an implicit reliance on your accepting these bills, and we are confident it will be more agreeable to them to receive payment from you at the end of four years with the legal interest of England, although less advantageous, than to have their bills returned, as in the last event they would be entitled to the Company's established interest of 8 per cent, which is 3 per cent more than you will pay at home. We must therefore hope that you will duly honor these bills, and that those who have received them with the knowledge of the restriction of your orders against their being drawn, as published by advertizement, will not have that circumstance turned in argument by you against your acceptance of them. The dependance which they have placed upon your faith gives them the stronger claim to your consideration, and the more especially as that dependance tends immediately to the relief of this Government and must eventually increase your ability to honor them when they become finally due. We shall say no more upon this subject but leave it implicitly to your candid determination.

12. We have received an address from Captain Lewis on this subject, which we send a number in the packet, and beg to recommend it to your favourable attention.

13. It having been represented to us by the friends of Miss Ann Keene that she is in the greatest distress for want of remittances from this country since the suspension of the privilege formerly allowed her by your Honourable Court, we have been prevailed upon to grant a sett of bills in her favor at the usual exchange for current rupees 2,644, which we trust will be duly honored.

14. The commanders of the *Southampton*, *Besborough*, *Mansfield* and *Vansittart* have represented the inadequacy of the allowance fixed, according to that granted for Lord Macleod's regiment, for the table and accommodation of the King's officers embarked on board their respective ships, on account of the high price of all kinds of provisions, particularly such as are necessary to be provided for a Europe voyage, compared with the prices in England, and on these grounds solicited the same allowance as we have found it necessary to grant to such officers as might be inclined to procure their own conveyances. We did not think ourselves authorized to comply with their request, but deeming their case worthy of consideration, as we cannot but acquiesce in the justice of their representation, we promised to recommend them to your favourable notice from a persuasion that you would not suffer the commanders of your ships to incur any loss on this account.

15. Mr. John Hill has applied to us for permission to resign the Honourable Company's service, which we have granted; Consultation 27th December. this gentleman has been accommodated with a passage to Europe on board the *Besborough*.

16. Mr. Templer, finding it necessary to proceed to Europe for the adjustment of his private affairs, has obtained our Consultation 15th December. permission to resign the service and take his passage on a Danish ship. Had not Mr. Templer himself solicited us to bear such testimony of his conduct as we might think him deserving of, in compliance with your orders, we should deem it an injustice to him not to acquaint you that he has regularly observed the most scrupulous attention to his duty on all occasions where his services have been called forth, and has ever acquitted himself with propriety, diligence and integrity.

17. Mr. John Perring, who held the office of Judge of the *Adawlut* at Mehysee, has requested our permission to resign his station and your service that he may go home for the recovery of his health. We are fully persuaded this step is absolutely necessary, although he has not sent in the certificate which you require upon the affidavit of 3 senior surgeons of the Presidency; but as we apprehend this omission is owing to his having been absent from Calcutta and being consequently deprived of their advice and assistance has been unable to procure this voucher in testimony of his pretensions to return to your service with his rank, we think him no less entitled to your notice if ever he shall desire it, and therefore beg leave to recommend him as a steady and faithful servant who has always conducted himself to our entire satisfaction. Consultation 29th December.

18. Mr. John Lloyd has also, from a laborious and unremitting attention to one of the most unpleasant and disagreeable employments in your service, been under the necessity of resigning with an intention of proceeding to Europe for the recovery of his health. The great application of this gentleman, Consultation 16th December.

and rigid attention to his trust in superintending the unloading, reloading and dispatching of your ships at Kedjeree has been so meritorious as to acquire him our thanks and promise to recommend him, as we now beg leave to do, to your favourable notice.

19. Mr. William Dundas one of your civil servants on the Madras establishment, who came out in the *Hussar* a Danish ship which passed Madras, having been compelled to apply for our permission to resign the service and return to England for the recovery of his health, which appears absolutely necessary from the certificate delivered in upon oath by the senior surgeons at this Presidency, we complied with his desire; and we trust as soon as he shall have recovered his health that you will restore him to his rank in the service.

Consultation 21st  
December.

20. The Supreme Court of Judicature, according to the rules of the Charter, returned Messrs. Philip Young, William Smoult and William Hall to us for the appointment of a Sheriff for the ensuing year. The first of these gentlemen being a Barrister in the Supreme Court, the second an Attorney at law and the third a young man who came out in the *Lord Mansfield*, we had not any alternative but that of appointing Mr. Young who, of the three returned, we thought the fittest person to fill that station.

Consultation 9th  
December.

21. Several of His Majesty's officers who served on the other side of India were obliged, from the great distress of the Presidency of Bombay for cash, to take treasury certificates instead of their pay, and having one and all brought these certificates here in the hopes of getting them paid by us we have, though with much reluctance, been under the necessity of refusing to discharge them, but have promised to recommend this matter to your particular attention, and doubt not, when you take the situation of our funds into consideration and the unfortunate predicament in which these gentlemen are situated, that you will immediately give orders for their discharge. We should not have hesitated to grant bills on you for the amount of these certificates had the application been made previous to our receipt of your orders peremptorily forbidding all other drafts on you without authority.

Consultation 3rd  
January 1785.

22. We send you, separate numbers in the packet, a correspondence which has passed between Colonel Gordon, the senior officer in His Majesty's service now in Bengal, and Lieutenant Colonel Duff, President of a court martial assembled in Calcutta for the trial of prisoners under our express warrant. Although we have stated the terms of this question through all its relations in the most pointed terms such as the importance of the subject required, yet to prevent misconceptions we wish to obviate any application of our arguments to the prejudice of Colonel Gordon from whom the subject originated. Many allowances ought to be made for an officer standing in the peculiar situation in which he has been placed, sent to this Presidency without any authority which we can acknow-

ledge, charged with orders which so far as the execution lies within his breast he must obey, but of which we cannot admit the authority, and entrusted with the support of pretensions, with the eyes of his whole corps watching his conduct with a jealous attention and ready to impute to him the charge of abandoning their common rights were he either to neglect or but feebly to assert them. Thus much we have thought it necessary to say from the respect which we bear to his character, both as a gentleman and as an officer who has distinguished himself in the support of your service and interest.

23. It is the claim only which has been asserted by him that we wish to bring forward to your notice, and must earnestly request that you will afford us the fullest instructions on the several resolutions we have passed respecting it. To Colonel Gordon we are indebted for having furnished us with this occasion of referring these questions to your consideration. They have long proved a source of great embarrassment to us, though we have avoided to trouble you concerning them at a time when a multiplicity of affairs of more immediate urgency seemed to claim your whole attention, and the inconvenience which we suffered from the want of sufficiently defined or ascertained authority did not press with much weight on ourselves.

24. We beg leave to call your particular attention to our resolutions  
 Consultation 27th December.      respecting the King's officers and men sent here by the Presidency of Fort St. George to be accommodated with passages to England. Having frequently represented the embarrassments and inconveniencies to which this measure has subjected us you will not be surprized at every exertion in our power to send them to England as soon as possible, and we trust the measures we have adopted, which appear at large in our Consultation of the 27th December, will meet with your entire approbation.

25. Colonel Gordon submitted through the Governor General a proposal for incorporating the King's soldiers into one  
 Consultation 15th December.      body, or of uniting them in service with those of the Company in any other mode than that of enlisting them according to the permission granted by His Majesty. We referred this proposal to the Commander in Chief and for the reasons contained  
 Consultation 27th December.      in his letter informed Colonel Gordon that we did not approve of it.

26. Since that period a letter has been received by Colonel Gordon from Major General Campbell, authorizing him to order the officers to grant discharges to such of the men as are willing to enlist, which we hope with the measures we have adopted for the recruiting service will be the means of our retaining in Bengal many valuable men, indeed our artillery and infantry European regiments are much in need of being recruited owing to the few men that have been sent out this year.



27. We beg leave to refer you to a letter, recorded in the Consultation of the 29th November, from Captain Call, your Surveyor General, which accompanied his map of India. This map is at present only in a rough state and on one sheet, but we are assured by Captain Call that it will soon be completed on 16 or 20 sheets and transmitted to you; if we are to judge from what we have seen the highest approbation in our opinion that we can give of this work is to inform you that it will speak for itself.

28. Captain William Gawith and Lieutenants Thomas Failer and Laurence Rawstorne have been obliged by extreme indisposition to quit your service and retire upon Lord Clive's bounty. These gentlemen after having taken the prescribed oath of qualification were furnished with the usual certificates with which they proceed to Europe on the early ships of this season, as will appear by the respective lists of passengers.

29. In the consultation noted in the margin you will find a recommendation from the Commander in Chief respecting an exchange between Mr. Thomas Stamford, an ensign in His Majesty's service, and Mr. Joseph Griffith a cadet on this establishment, which we have consented to for the reasons set forth in the Commander in Chief's letter and in consideration of the particular case of Mr. Stamford as represented by himself. This gentleman therefore comes in as the youngest cadet of the year in which Mr. Griffith was appointed, or of any that have since been appointed by you. But we have declared in General Orders that this indulgence is not to be considered as a precedent.

30. Since the departure of the *Surprize* packet we have permitted several of your military servants to resign, but as your orders, founded upon an unanimous resolution of the Honourable Court of Proprietors respecting the mode in which such resignations should be admitted, are very particular we beg leave to call your attention to the following lists and to our observations immediately after them.

#### On account of ill health producing affidavits

##### Consultations

15th December	...	...	Major Chatfield
Do.	...	...	Captain Lucas
21st December	...	...	Colonel Muir
Do.	...	...	Mr. James Armstrong, Surgeon
3rd January	...	...	Captain Robert Dennis

#### On account of ill health without affidavits

##### Consultations

21st December	...	...	Colonel Popham
3rd January	...	...	Colonel Elliott
12th January	...	...	Major Gilpin

## Consultations

3rd January	...	...	Captain Green
12th January	...	...	Captain McGregor
Do.	...	...	Captain Wedderburn

## On account of private affairs

## Consultations

29th November	...	...	Major Dickson
21st December	...	...	Major Lumsdain
Do.	...	...	Captain Hilliard
[.....]	...	...	Ensign Leslie
12th January	...	...	Captain Bruce
21st December	...	...	Mr. Urquhart, Surgeon
15th December	...	...	Mr. Robert Johnson, Surgeon

31. The particular merits of these officers, too numerous to be expatiated upon separately in a General Letter, are mentioned at large in the address from our Commander in Chief notifying their requests to resign; they are recorded in our consultations noted in the margin opposite their names, and perfectly correspond with our sentiments.

32. The cases of Colonels Muir, Popham and Elliott require our more particular notice. The Governor General's minute respecting the former gentleman being expressed in such forcible terms which entirely correspond with our sentiments of Colonel Muir upon subsequent observation of his general conduct, we beg leave to refer you to it at large as we shall enter it in this letter, and to recommend him in the warmest terms to the particular notice and attention of your Honourable Court.

"The Governor General desires to record his testimony of the sense which he entertains of the services of Colonel Muir by declaring that he has known him upwards of thirty years and has always regarded him as one of the most active officers of the service, that Colonel Muir was the efficient instrument of the treaty of peace formed with Mahdojee Sindia, which was the basis of that which was afterwards concluded with the whole Maratta State. That in the negotiation of the treaty he literally and steadily conformed to his instructions, and manifested in the course of it a becoming equality of temper which no doubt contributed to the facility and promptness with which he accomplished it, and that when the Governor General judged it proper to commit a charge of the general treaty to Mr. David Anderson, Colonel Muir's command requiring his removal to a distance incompatible with the due exercise of such a trust, he received Mr. Anderson with kindness, supported him with his influence while he remained, and afforded him all the light which he had acquired by his own recent experience for promoting the depending negotiation. This the Governor General mentions as a proof of zeal, integrity and disinterestedness which he has not commonly met with even in characters of high estimation, and felt its obligation the stronger from his recollection of a very different spirit shewn by General Goddard at the same period of time and on the same occasion. Colonel Muir may be in possession of a letter written by the Governor General under the recent impression of these

services, which he believes expresses yet in warmer terms his acknowledgement of them, but he hopes this testimony will be sufficient to produce its due effect on the justice of his Honorable Employers."

33. Your letter of 28th August 1782 directed an enquiry to be held by court martial into the conduct of the commanding officer at Bedzy Ghur on account of the rapid division of the plunder taken by your troops in that fortress. But your late Commander in Chief expressed the impropriety of carrying it into execution, as a civil suit upon the same subject had been instituted in the Supreme Court of Judicature. We accordingly deferred the execution of your commands; the point was afterwards decided, as notified to you in our letter of 15th March 1784, in favor of the Honourable Company; but having since been appealed to the King in Council all further proceedings upon the subject must now rest with you as Colonel Popham returns to Europe by the *Vansittart*.

34. The many and eminent services performed by this gentleman we long since apprized you of in the following paragraphs of our former letters.

"We are happy to inform you that our successes against the Mahrattas have not been limited to the operations in Guzerat, the same spirit which has animated your forces in that country, and the same gallantry and good conduct which has distinguished their commanders has shewn itself in the detachment of your troops employed in the service of our ally the Rana of Ghode. The capture of Lahar Fort on the 28th April, and the subsequent and very important capture of the fortress of Gwalior,<sup>1</sup> of which you were advised in a Separate Letter written to you under date the 26th August by a neutral ship, reflect the highest honor of the officer in command of your troops, as well as on those subordinate to him. We have thought it necessary to reward the services of Captain Popham by promoting him to the rank of major, and we have granted him a commission accordingly, specifying particularly in the body of it for what services it was given him, his title to the rank which he held by it not being in the regular course of succession. His conduct during the whole course of this service has been so meritorious that we think it a duty incumbent upon us to recommend him particularly to your favor."

"By the letters from the Governor General, entered on our records, you will perceive the high terms in which he speaks of the zeal and alacrity of the officers employed in quieting the late disturbances in the country of Benares, and the particular sense which he entertained of the services of Major Popham and Lieutenant Colonel Blair, having been induced by repeated instances of the judgement, gallantry and good conduct of the former and the meritorious actions of the latter to recommend them separately to us for brevet promotion as the most distinguishing and honourable testimony of public approbation that could be offered them."

Secret Department  
Consultation 29th  
December 1781.

"As the promotion of Lieutenant Colonel Blair was not likely to

affect the pretensions of other officers in the army we took this opportunity of agreeing to it, but Major Popham being in a different predicament, and as we did not conceive that a bare promotion of him to the brevet rank of lieutenant colonel was a sufficient recompence for the extraordinary services which he had rendered, we published our intention, and accordingly beg leave to recommend to you in the strongest terms the particular pretension of Major William Popham, and to point out to your notice his great merit as an officer, requesting that you will be pleased to do him the honor to submit these circumstances to the gracious attention of His Majesty in whose service he has long borne a commission, and to solicit such mark of favor from the Throne as it may be thought fit to confer upon him."

35. We are happy to assure you that the conduct of Colonel Popham has continued to deserve that high approbation which we have now more immediately recalled to your recollection, and we trust that merit so conspicuous as his has been will meet with every attention and favor from you.

36. Colonel Elliott has served in your army for twenty two years, and during the whole of that long period has distinguished himself as an able, active and good officer. His conduct in the Carnatic, where he commanded for some time the whole artillery attached to the Grand Army, procured the entire approbation and well-earned applause of your late Commander in Chief Sir Eyre Coote; we cannot therefore but feel ourselves particularly interested in requesting every favorable indulgence that you can bestow upon him, and none, we believe, can be more grateful than a restoration to his rank in your service when the case of his relinquishing it is removed. His absence we cannot but consider as a loss to this establishment.

37. The liberality both in the mode and expression of Captain Bruce's application to resign your service has afforded us an opportunity of recommending to your particular consideration a revision of the orders upon this subject, not only in his favor who avows openly his purpose but justifies it upon the plea of past services and upon the precedent of such indulgence being common in every other military service, but also for the restriction to be generally withdrawn and for some encouragement to be held out inviting officers to a temporary retirement from the service until such time as the establishment shall be reduced to its proper compliment.

38. This latter mode we are not earnest in recommending as a necessary alleviation of the necessities of Government as well as a point of retrenchment and as inducements to obtain your compliance to the former. Though we acknowledge that some provision is most requisite to check the plea too lightly alledged and too easily attested by surgeons of the ill health of officers requiring leave to proceed to Europe for a time, we are much concerned to observe that the obligation at present imposed has operated in a manner to defeat the real purpose of it from the natural apprehension which every man of principle will feel for his character, and consequent disinclinations which he will shew to take



multiplied oaths on every occasion and particularly so when, though correct and certain of the grounds at the time of making attestation, the frequent appearance of his name to similar attestations, and the changes which will often be produced in the health and appearance of any officer during a long voyage may and will have the effect of suggesting imputations extremely injurious to his reputation. Besides when such consequences will naturally ensue every man will decline, and no law or public order can compel him to take an oath where he feels or expresses a doubt.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	45,969	9	10	
Khalsah	...	...	40,127	10	6	
						86,079 4 4 [sic]

Bills receivable

General Treasury	...	...	22,96,100	0	0	
Khalsah	...	...	3,74,683	14	0	
						26,70,783 14 0

Current rupees 27,56,881 2 4

Balance account deposits	...	...	9,35,596	6	8	
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertizement	...	...	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	...	1,66,69,607	12	11	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	...	16,96,680	0	0	
						1,94,67,163 2 0

Fort William,  
the 17th January 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

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## LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1785

*Sir John D'Oyly resigns the post of Resident and Collector of Customs at Murshidabad—resignation of Messrs. Shore and Anderson of the Revenue Department.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Accompanying our last letter, under date the 17th instant, per

*Valentine*, we had the honor to transmit you the broken set of proceedings from this Department, since the close of the packet by the *Surprize* to the end of the year.

2. We have now the pleasure to dispatch the *Hillsborough* with a cargo amounting, as per invoice, to current rupees 14,06,275-0-0.

3. The office of Resident at the Durbar and Collector of Government Customs at Moorshedabad having become vacant, by the resignation of Sir John D'Oyly<sup>1</sup>, we appointed, in conformity to your commands under date 31st May 1781, Robert Percival Pott to that station.

Consultation 9th  
January.

4. As Sir John D'Oyly's merits are particularly deserving your attention we beg leave to introduce him to your notice. He possesses a mildness of disposition and an equality of temper which must ever command the esteem of all who know him. In respect to his public character we have every reason to be satisfied with him, both as an able and faithful servant of the Company, and as such recommend him to your favor should he after the adjustment of his affairs in Europe apply to be restored to your service.

5. Messrs. David Anderson<sup>2</sup>, John Shore<sup>3</sup> and Nathniel Brassey Halhed<sup>4</sup> have requested our permission to resign the service and proceed to Europe on account of bad health, as will appear by their separate addresses entered in the consultation noted in the margin.

Consultation 24th  
January.

6. Mr. Shore and Mr. Anderson having long served in the revenue line we shall from that Department, in conformity to your orders of the 23rd January 1783, state in the most impartial manner the particular merits of these gentlemen.

7. Mr. Nathaniel Brassey Halhed has been here so short a time that we must refer you to the favourable opinion you expressed of him upon his return to India last year, which entirely corresponds with ours. We cannot however pass over this subject without expressing our regret that this Government should at once lose three as able men, in their respective lines, as have of any time been employed in your or indeed any public service.

8. The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	49,246	1	1
Khalsah	...	...	83,435	6	2

1,32,681 7 3

## Bills receivable

## General Treasury

Sicca rupees	18,57,034	7	10	21,54,160	0	0
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## Khalsah

Sicca rupees	2,79,609	13	3	3,24,347	6	5
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	24,11,188	6	5	[sic]
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Current rupees	26,11,188	13	8
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Balance account deposits	...	8,72,233	13	4
--------------------------	-----	----------	----	---

Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9
---	-----	----------	----	---

Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertizement	...	45,117	0	8
---	-----	--------	---	---

New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,62,63,607	12	11
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4 per cent remittance loan	...	8,56,840	0	0
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	1,81,57,960	8	8
--	-------------	---	---

...

Fort William,  
the 28th January 1785.

[We have the honor to be etc.]

30

## LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1785

*Governor General to return to England—bills issued for sums of money advanced by the Governor General for public service—Major Toone made Lieutenant Colonel—Stuart contests with Barton the Presidency of the Board of Trade—Governor General and Council decide in favour of Stuart.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. By the *Berrington*, Captain Johnston, we have the pleasure of transmitting our complete annual set of proceedings from the 1st of January to the 31st December 1784, together with the index and copies of all our letters written to you from this Department during the present season.

2. The *Hinchinbrooke* having been completely repaired at Bombay has, after a survey of the Master Attendant and two of your commanders, been again taken into the service.

3. We dispatched in the course of 1783/4 seventeen ships with cargoes amounting, in all, to current rupees two crore thirteen lacks ninety seven thousand, nine hundred and fifteen (current rupees 2,13,97,915), and we hope from the early period in which they sailed that the whole will have long, ere this, reached England in safety.

4. This season the Board of Trade have loaded the following ships with cargoes amounting to the different sums affixed to each, viz.,

<i>Southampton</i>	...	...	13,56,225
<i>Besborough</i>	...	....	14,82,000
<i>Vansittart</i>	...	...	13,77,100
<i>Valentine</i>	...	...	13,15,300
<i>Hillsborough</i>	...	...	14,06,275
<i>Berrington</i>	...	...	12,95,000

The *Lord Mansfield* will soon be loaded with a cargo amounting to about ... .. 13,00,000

And the saltpetre etc., to be shipped on the *Cornwallis*, *Glatton* and *Hinchinbrooke* is estimated at ... .. 3,00,000

To which must be added the *Cambden's* investment for Mocha to provide a cargo of coffee for Europe ... .. 2,00,000

---

1,00,31,900

The investment sent home last year is ... .. 2,13,97,915

Making in all since the conclusion of the peace ... .. 3,14,29,815

Three crore fourteen lacks twenty nine thousand, eight hundred and fifteen or (£32,73,939-5-0) three millions two hundred seventy three thousand, nine hundred and thirty nine pounds sterling, rating the current rupee at (2s. 1d.), two shillings and one penny.

5. The *Southampton*, in company with the *Besborough*, quitted her pilot on the 7th January, the *Vansittart* on the 16th do., the *Valentine* on the 24th do., and the *Hillsborough*, we suppose, will be clear out by the 1st proximo.

6. Having received information from Fort St. George that the President and Council of Bencoolen had on hand 1,000 tons of pepper without tonnage to convey it to Europe or to China we immediately directed



the Board of Trade to ballast the *Glatton* and *Hinchinbrooke* with saltpetre, and shall accordingly send these ships to that place without delay, recommending, as they are on a war demurrage, the President and Council there to dispatch them for Europe as expeditiously as possible.

7. The *Hillsborough* being very much crowded with passengers we have ordered the seven King's officers destined for that ship to hold themselves in readiness to proceed on the *Cornwallis*, and Captain Hardcastle has agreed to account, with your Committee of Shipping, for the difference between the sum you may allow your commanders, in consequence of our recommendation in their favor contained in the 14th paragraph of our letter of the 17th instant per *Valentine*, and that granted to Captain Abercrombie, viz., 2,000 *sicca* rupees.

8. In the consultation noted in the margin the Honourable the  
 Consultation 16th Governor General apprized us of his intention to  
 December. return to Europe, and we are sorry to inform you he  
 now proceeds to England on the *Berrington*.

9. We have received a letter from the Governor General, copy of  
 which we transmit you a number in the packet, wherein he delivers up  
 and cancels in the presence of the Board the three  
 Consultation 17th Company's interest notes, alluded to in the extract,  
 January. of an account which accompanied his letter to your  
 Honourable Secret Committee dated 22nd May 1782, amounting in  
 principal and interest to current rupees 5,42,033-8-9. This sum has, in  
 conformity to the Governor General's desire, been transferred from his  
 credit upon your interest books to the Company's, and thereby causes  
 a reduction of the above sum in the amount of the bond debt of this  
 Government.

10. The Governor General at the same time desires that the sum  
 of current rupees 2,38,715-2-3, which stood to his credit in the deposit  
 books, might be transferred to the Company's, being the amount of the  
 second article in the account above adverted to, and which of course  
 reduces the amount in that sum of what appears due from the General  
 Treasury on account deposits.

11. The Governor General having advanced several sums of  
 money for public service, and for which he took  
*Vide* letter no. [...] Company's interest notes, represented that the dis-  
 in the packet. posal of them to others would at this time subject  
 him to great loss, and desired that we would issue orders on the treasury  
 bearing interest for their amount.

12. Taking this subject into consideration we resolved to leave it  
 to the option of the Governor General to receive orders on our treasury  
 or bills on you. He has accepted the latter both as more suitable to  
 his own wants and to the respect which he wishes to yield to you by

referring to your pleasure to ratify or revoke this indulgence, and for that purpose proposed that a conditional clause should be inserted in the bills to that effect, which has accordingly been done. The register of these bills is sent by this conveyance, and we have no doubt but that you will duly honor them.

13. For your fuller information we beg leave to refer you to the Governor General's letters, copies of which we transmit you numbers in the packet.

14. Major William Sands and Captain Jonathan Scott have requested our permission to resign the Honourable Company's service and proceed to England on the *Berrington* on account of their health. We refer you to the sentiments expressed by the Commander in Chief respecting the merits of these officers, and as we have a very favourable opinion of them we recommend that they be restored to their rank in the service as soon as they shall have effected the re-establishment of their health.

15. On the 17th instant the Governor General gave in a minute, which we transmit a number in the packet, requesting for the reasons set forth in that minute that we would confer the rank of lieutenant colonel on Major Swiney Toone<sup>1</sup>, previous to his departure from this country.

16. Knowing as we do the general good character of Major Toone, the favourable opinion you have of him and the faithful services he has rendered the Company, both in England and in India, we were happy at the opportunity which the Governor General has thus afforded us of testifying our sense of Major Toone's conduct, and have accordingly promoted him to the rank of lieutenant colonel, but this is not in any shape to entitle him to supercede his seniors on this establishment, either prior to his departure for Europe or after his return to Bengal, but is granted to him in compliance to the Governor General, and as an honorary mark of our approbation of his services.

17. Lieutenant Colonel Toone has since resigned the service and proceeds to England on the *Berrington*.

18. We are to inform you of the death of Mr. Vanrixtel one of the members of the Board of Trade, and that in consequence thereof the Honourable Charles Stuart has been called to a seat at that Board.

19. Mr. Stuart, having applied for a copy of the proceedings regarding his appointment, found that the Board of Trade had allotted him a seat under Mr. Barton, the then President, although his junior in your service, and conceiving this to be very injurious to him as well as a deviation from the regulations of the Board of Trade, founded upon a misconstruction of your orders, appealed to us as the proper power in this country to explain and enforce them.

20. We therefore called upon the Board of Trade for copies of their proceedings on this subject, and such other information as they might deem necessary to give us, and have now the honor to transmit them to you numbers in the packet. We immediately gave these proceedings the most deliberate consideration, and the following observations have occurred to us, viz.,

As the Board of Trade have grounded their resolution which is stated to be unanimous to continue Mr. Barton in his office of President of that Board in opposition to the pretensions of Mr. Stuart on the three following points, the Board will confine their examination of the question brought before them in Mr. Stuart's appeal to the said points.

1st "That the Presidentship of the Board of Trade is an executive office."

The constitution and nature of this office are clearly defined in the fundamental instructions of the Court of Directors dated 29th March 1774, by which the Board of Trade was first instituted and appointed. The powers and trusts of that Board are such and no other as they are declared to be in those instructions. But these instructions neither convey such an authority nor contain any such expression from which such an authority can be inferred; on the contrary in every instance in which the President is mentioned in his relation to any of the others, he is placed in a state of exact equality with them in point of authority; he is not mentioned separately according to the form which was invariably used by the Court of Directors in speaking of the members of Government to whom such directions were addressed by the titles of President and Council, but is included under the collective appellation of the Board of Trade or Board only.

He is not even allowed a casting voice but it is ordered "that in every case where the number of votes shall be found equal the decision shall be finally determined by drawing lotts." It is not even declared his duty as President to summon or appoint the meetings of the Board of Trade, but the order is so expressed as to make it the equal duty of all the members to assemble. The order is "that our Board of Trade assemble twice in every week, that five members (without any specification of the President) not a less number do constitute a board, that in case of sickness of the President or his being unavoidably prevented from attending at any meeting of the Board of Trade the senior member, who may then be present, do take the chair," by which expression the option of suspending or protracting the meetings of the Board is entirely withheld from the authority and charge of the President. It is clearly the duty of the Board in such cases to assemble, and the right of the senior member present to take the vacant chair, not to accept it as a delegation.

The President is therefore not constituted the executive officer of the Board, and the construction of the Company's fundamental instructions prove that it was not their intention he should be such.

2nd "That the Presidentship of the Board of Trade is distinct in its nature from the station of individual members."

The nature of the Board of Trade is only to be understood or inferred from the instructions of the Company by which it was originally constituted, and in these there is no distinction as has been already shewn, but were there such a distinction, and were it even an executive office, as has been asserted by the Board of Trade, neither of these qualities could deprive Mr. Stuart of his right to succeed to the office of President, if he really possesses that right from the orders of the Court of Directors.

3rd "That the tenure of it is by express appointment."

We do not understand what is meant by these expressions, for no appointment of that kind can be denominated special or express unless made by the Court of Directors themselves, who have not yet, to our knowledge, made any such special and express appointment, but in the cases of Samuel Middleton Esqr., the first President whom they nominally appointed to that office, and William Aldersey Esqr., whose designation to the station is ordered by the order which directs that the senior member in rank shall succeed in case of the death, resignation or removal of Mr. Middleton. Mr. Barton is in office merely as the senior member and not otherwise.

Having thus examined the grounds assigned by the Board of Trade for the rejection of Mr. Stuart we proceed to the examination of the Company's orders, on which he grounds his claim, and those and no other authority can be decisive of it. By these orders he is expressly appointed to the first vacancy which shall happen after his arrival, and to take his rank agreeably to his standing. Mr. Stuart stands in rank above Mr. Barton according to the express terms of his restoration to the service, which are that he is permitted to proceed to his rank in the service, he must therefore take rank over Mr. Barton and conformably to the only precedent to which the orders of the Court of Directors can apply in this case, namely the order which regulates the succession in case of death, resignation or removal of the first President, Mr. Samuel Middleton, that the senior member shall succeed. Mr. Stuart being the senior member of the Board of Trade must succeed to the office of President of the Board of Trade, whether considered as vacated by his appointment to take his rank and standing in that Board or by the resignation of Mr. Dacres, the late President, whose place was temporarily filled by Mr. Barton, the senior member then present.

To conclude as Mr. Stuart's claim to the office of President of the Board of Trade is founded on the orders of the Court of Directors, which cannot be invalidated by any resolution of the members of the



Board of Trade, and it being our duty to see the orders of the Company carried into execution, the same being primarily and constitutionally directed to us for that purpose, we must require that he be admitted to his seat as President of the Board of Trade.

21. We have therefore called upon the Board of Trade to admit Mr. Stuart as their President, and had hopes to have seen this matter finally concluded previous to the departure of the *Berrington*, but the Board of Trade have notified, through their Secretary, that as the subject matter of our letter is of the first importance they deem it highly necessary to give it the most deliberate and mature consideration, and will send in their reply thereto as soon as, consistantly with that deliberation, it can be prepared.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money									
General Treasury	...	...	79,817	13	4				
Khalsah	...	...	51,990	3	5				
							1,31,808	0	9
Bills receivable									
General Treasury									
Sicca rupees	16,47,834	7 10	19,11,488	0	0				
Khalsah do.	1,83,448	4 6	2,12,800	0	1				
							21,24,288	0	1
Mint									
General	...	...	[.....]						
Khalsah	...	...	12,076	8	1				
							12,076	8	1
Unsorted treasure									
Khalsah									
from Burdwan	2,84,557	3 10							
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees							3,13,012	15	0
						Current rupees	25,81,185	7	11
Balance account deposits									
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	...	...	6,20,831	5	8				
Do. of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertisement	...	...	1,20,161	13	9				
							45,117	0	8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	1,57,26,907	12 11							
11 per cent remittance loan	...	...	8,56,840	0	0				
							1,73,69,858	1	0

Fort William,  
the 31st January 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## LETTER DATED 5 FEBRUARY 1785

*A copy of Hastings' minute and the Supreme Council's letter sent in the Danish ship Hussar.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have the honor, by the *Hussar* a Danish ship, to transmit you duplicate of our letter per *Berrington*, and a copy of Mr. Hastings's minute previous to his departure; triplicate of these dispatches are also forwarded via Bussorah.

2. In a few days we shall dispatch the *Lord Mansfield* and on the fifteenth the *Cornwallis*, the last ship of the season.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money									
General Treasury	...	...		49,187	10	6			
Khalsah	...	...		33,845	10	2			
								83,033	4 8
Bills receivable									
General Treasury									
Sicca rupees	15,30,534	7	10	17,75,420	0	0			
Khalsah do.	1,63,448	4	6	1,89,600	0	1			
								19,65,020	4 8
									[sic]
Mint									
Khalsah	...	...		20,857	12	2		20,857	12 2
Unsorted treasure									
Khalsah									
from Burdwan	11,757	3	6						
Beerbhom	20,000	0	0						
								31,757	3 6
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees								34,932	15 0
Current rupees								21,03,843	15 11

Balance account deposits	...	6,35,536	4	2	
Do. Accomptant General to the					
Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on					
which the interest has					
ceased by public advertize-					
ment	... ..	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,57,26,907	12	11	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	8,56,840	0	0	
					1,73,84,562 15 6

Fort William,  
5th February 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## 32

## LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1785

*Warren Hastings hands over the keys of Fort William to John Macpherson—Hastings' services praised by the Calcutta Council—tender of Oudh cloth accepted—Indian troops serving in the Carnatic rewarded—complaints against the poor quality of stationery sent—idemnity paid to Prinsep for the surrender of the grant of copper coinage.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The *Berrington*, Captain Johnston, carried our address under date the 31st ultimo, and we have now the honor of writing you by the *Earl of Mansfield*, Captain Fraser, which ship has a cargo on board amounting, as per invoice, to current rupees 12,84,100.

2. We shall dispatch the *Earl of Cornwallis*, Captain Abercromby, soon after the *Mansfield*, by which ship we shall forward you the duplicate of this letter. The invoice of her cargo amounts to current rupees 90,300.

3. These are the last of your chartered ships which we shall dispatch to Europe this season immediately from Bengal, but the *Glatton* and *Hinchinbrooke* will sail in a few days for Bencoolen in saltpetre ballast to be filled up with pepper as advised in our letter of the 31st ultimo.

4. Your Honourable Court has been informed, in our dispatches by

the *Berrington*, that the Honourable Warren Hastings Esqr. had announced to us his determination to return to Europe in that ship. On the 1st of this month he read a minute of Council by which he on that day formally delivered over the keys of Fort William and of your Treasury to John Macpherson Esqr<sup>1</sup>., the senior member of Council, next in succession to the office of Governor General. In the same minute, of which we have already transmitted you copies in triplicate, Mr. Hastings "reserved to himself a right to resume his office of Governor General in the event of any accident befalling the ship in her passage to the open sea, or any other contingency compelling his return."

5. Our reply in answer to the expressions of esteem and good will addressed to us personally in Mr. Hastings's minute is recorded in the consultation of the first February.

6. It does not become us to pass an opinion on the merits of a servant who has served you so long, and in so exalted and difficult a situation as Mr. Hastings has done. His measures have been frequently canvassed by your Honourable Court and by the highest tribunals of our country. As members of your administration we have not always concurred in opinion with him, we are not at the same time the less disposed to render the most liberal justice to the real merit of his services, especially those which have met the approbation of the Honourable Company.

7. We shall therefore say no more on the present occasion than that we trust that in the true spirit of candid justice in which we wish our own conduct to be considered by our employers so we request your Honourable Court to estimate the services of your late Governor General.

8. Few men possess the talents, the vigour of mind, or command of temper which are necessary to conduct successfully for a period of years the first charge of your Government in these distant and extensive provinces. Where errors have been committed the consideration ought to be perhaps whether they might not, in the common course of affairs, have been greater or more fatal, and where services have been rendered the difficulties under which they were executed ought to decide their merits.

9. On the 8th of this month Mr. Hastings dispatched to us, from sea, his final resignation etc., which we received on the 12th, and on that day Mr. Macpherson's complete accession to the office of Governor General was announced, according to the established ceremony, by proclamation in Fort William and at the different stations of the army, according to the provisions of the 13th and 21st Acts of Parliament of the present reign.

10. Mr. Hastings laid before us on the 1st instant his accounts of receipts and disbursements for the last thirteen months on account of *darbar* charges, amounting to current rupees 12,19,227-9-3. We transmit copies of these accounts for your inspection, and beg leave to refer you to the letter, which accompanied them, recorded in our proceedings.



Should any further explanation be required we doubt not but Mr. Hastings will readily give it on being called upon.

11. And as we understand that similar accounts have not been sent you to a later period than 30th April 1782, we ordered copies thereof to be made out, and shall forward them by the *Cornwallis*. The originals you will receive by the present dispatch together with an annual abstract of the whole.

12. From the Secret Department of Inspection you will be informed of the progress we have made in the great work, which we have long had anxiously at heart, of reducing the established and contingent expences of this Government. The Governor General wishing to establish the effect of example, and to give its force to the general reform delivered in a minute in this Department on the 14th instant, that minute goes a number in the packet and we recommend it to your attention.

13. The Board of Trade having strongly urged our acceptances of a tender of Owde cloths made by Mr. John Pendred Scott, more than his existing engagements, we acquiesced in their recommendations for the reasons set forth in their letters, to which we beg leave to refer and to our replies thereon.

14. We have assented to permit a small quantity of table linnen, also manufactured in Owde, to be sent home on Mr. Scott's account on the same terms as you have licenced individuals to lade raw silk on your chartered ships, and we hope this measure will meet your approbation. As the whole is shipped by the Board of Trade their remarks on these goods, and the invoices, will be sent from that Department.

15. In our letter of the 31st ultimo, per *Berrington*, we informed you of the steps we had taken to place the Honourable Charles Stuart in his proper rank in your service according to your express orders, and of the resistance of the Board of Trade in consequence.

16. Mr. Stuart's letter to us and the correspondence which has passed on this subject with the Board of Trade, together with our peremptory requisition of to-day, make numbers in this packet, and we beg leave to inform you that as it is our duty so it is our firm determination to enforce your commands however painful the consequences may be to our feelings.

17. As none of your chartered ships were permitted last year to call at the island of Madeira we are induced from the fluctuating price of that article, and the distress to which this settlement has been reduced by being obliged to use very bad wine, to request you will order two or three ships to touch there every season, and that you will consign a large quantity of the first quality for the use of the civil and military servants under this Government as was formerly the case. Good Madeira wine is now above four hundred *sicca* rupees, and has been within these two years at the enormous sum of 1,500 *sicca* rupees per pipe.

18. Messrs. Henry Richardson, John Hannay, George Edward Lind and Robert Orme Smith have requested our permission to resign your service, which we have accordingly granted.

19. Mr. Hannay has ever conducted himself to the satisfaction of this Government and has served in different stations with ability, honor and strict attention to his duty, we therefore recommend him to your favor. We likewise recommend Mr. Lind to your favorable attention, and we trust you will permit them to return to their stations on this establishment when the urgency of their private affairs shall admit of their applications to that effect.

20. Mr. Smith has long labored under a very bad state of health, and his circumstances being very circumscribed as proved to us by his attestation upon oath, we have admitted him to the benefit of the pension which, according to our resolutions in the Secret Department of Inspection, we judged advisable to allot to servants of his standing who should be necessitated to return to Europe.

21. We complied with Mr. Henry Richardson's request to return to England for his health, under the regulations published from the Secret Department of Inspection. His appointment was reduced in the general plan of economy which the situation of your affairs rendered unavoidable. His knowledge of the Persian language and experience in the revenues of the country, from an unremitting attention of fifteen years in the regular gradation in the service, entitle him to our recommendations in his favor, and our solicitation to you to permit him to return without loss of rank when the situation of his health and private affairs will admit of it.

22. The *Cornwallis* will receive on board all the King's officers that have not either procured passages for themselves, been accommodated in the Company's ships, or such as remain for the adjustment of accounts with the other Presidencies. A return of the whole is enclosed a number in the packet, also a particular account of payments made to all His Majesty's troops in Bengal.

23. Our consultations, to which we beg leave to refer you, will shew the difficulties to which we have been put by a number of His Majesty's officers and men being sent here with long, intricate and unadjusted claims upon the Company—claims indeed impossible for us to settle as they were not incurred under our authority. We were therefore obliged to resolve that they should be referred for adjustment to the settlement under which they originated, and recommended that two agents should be deputed by the King's officers to each Presidency for this purpose, informing them that in case of the inability of the President and Council to discharge the balances, that may be proved due, they will be authorized to draw bills on this Government for the same, which shall have a preference in payment.

24. We have permitted the following officers of this establishment

to resign your service, since our last dispatches were sent away, viz., Lieutenant Robert Ball on account of his private affairs, Major Lane on account of indisposition without certificates, Lieutenants John Brown and Andrew Young producing certificates upon oath.

25. The characters and general conduct of Major Lane and Lieutenant Brown are particularly pointed out by the letters from your Commander in Chief, recorded in the consultation noted in the margin. In the tenor of these we acquiesce, as well as in the recommendation for them to be restored to your service as soon as a re-establishment of health shall admit of their return to India.

Consultation 17th January.

26. Lieutenant Young whose case is peculiarly hard, as will appear from a perusal of his letter, has taken the oath of qualification and received certificates entitling him to such benefit from the pension as is allotted to officers of his standing, but in consideration of this officer's merit and sufferings, by severe indisposition, we have promised to intercede in his favor with you, which we hereby do as an object deserving of the additional reward of partaking in the contingent Military Fund.

Consultation 17th January.

27. The consultation noted in the margin will point out a strong recommendation from your Commander in Chief in favour of a claim from Captain Hearsay, as Grain Keeper to the Grand Army in the Carnatic, whilst under the command of Sir Eyre Coote.

Consultation 12th January.

28. Captain Hearsay's own representation, which accompanies that letter, will fully elucidate the subject and prove to you our disinclination to interfere in the detail of transactions upon the Coast, however meritorious the case. Indeed were we inclined to examine into the grounds of his claims we are prevented for want of authorities to ascertain them.

29. We cannot however but consider it a just regard to an officer of this establishment to call forth your attention to this subject. And as it is within your reach to ascertain the exact advantages which the Presidency of Fort St. George have permitted their own servants, acting in similar situations, to derive we recommend this case to your favorable consideration, and we trust that you will permit Captain Hearsay, who was selected by your late Commander in Chief Sir Eyre Coote for his merits and active services, to reap the same benefits as have been enjoyed by others acting in the same capacity.

30. We have already apprized you of the return of the Carnatic Detachment, under Colonel Pearse, to Ghyretty<sup>2</sup>, and of our intentions to dissolve it, without delay, as soon as funds to discharge the arrears due were collected.

31. We are now happy to acquaint you that this measure took place on the 1st instant, and that the five regiments which composed it are on their march to such stations as your Commander in Chief has judged proper to allot them.

32. Our proceedings noted in the margin will inform you of the favorable sentiments which we entertain of their merits and eminent services, and of the rewards which we have thought proper to grant to the two grand detachments of your Bengal troops, whose conduct has so highly distinguished them during the late war. We are impressed with the strongest expectations that these rewards will have the happiest effect among the native troops in general, both in fixing their attachments to your service in any part of India and in exciting them hereafter to undergo the most arduous fatigues and difficulties with patience, activity and spirit.

17th January.  
28th do.

33. At the solicitation of Lieutenant Colonel White and Ensign John Jenkins Bird we have received two memorials addressed to your Honorable Court, and forward them numbers in the packet by this dispatch.

34. Mr. Clement Francis and Mr. Alexander Walker, Surgeons on this establishment, having requested our permission to resign your service and to return to Europe on account of their private affairs we granted it to them accordingly. The former embarked in the *Berrington*, the latter in the *Hillsborough*.

35. Mr. Robert Church, an Assistant Surgeon on this establishment, has obtained our permission to proceed to Europe under the licence of the late regulations, except in the articles of pay which we did not think proper to allow him, as he was appointed here after the gentlemen whom you have rejected on account of our nomination. He proceeds on the *Mansfield*, in which ship he has engaged to render his professional services on the passage.

36. Mr. Francis Balladen Thomas, Surgeon Major to the 2nd Brigade, having been tried by a court martial upon sundry charges, exhibited against him by Mr. John Bristow<sup>3</sup>, was discharged from your service by the sentence of the court which the majority of the Board approved on the 26th ultimo; and he has been required to proceed to England this season in obedience to your standing orders.

37. As we are under the necessity of making very considerable purchases of stationary at a very great advance on the Europe cost, owing to your not supplying us with a quantity adequate to the annual consumption of this encreased establishment, and as that which we receive is generally of a very inferior quality we could wish the persons to whom you entrust the provision of this article of our supplies might be directed carefully to examine the quality of the stationary sent us. And that you may be apprized of the necessity of furnishing us with the



quantity required for an annual consumption, we beg leave to state the amount which has been advanced in the last three years of our accounts for the purchase of stationary, which is as follows:

In 1781/2	...	...	...	31,000	0	0
1782/3	...	...	...	24,000	0	0
1783/4	...	...	...	50,288	4	4
				<hr/>		
				Current rupees	1,05,288	4 4

38. Number [...] in the packet contains a set of drawings of lands as they appear in the eastern passage to China, according to the bearings laid down, prepared and sent in to us by Mr. George Gray Townshend, and we recommend him to your notice for such reward and future favor as you may deem his labors deserving of. His letter respecting these drawings is recorded in the consultation noted in the margin.

39. Mr. Devis has represented to us that he embarked on the *Antelope* packet under an appointment from you of draftsman to the Company; and that having been wrecked in that vessel upon the Peloo Islands he at last got to China and from thence came here. He now solicits our confirmation of him in his original appointment without any allowances, desiring it only as a sanction for his remaining in Bengal until your pleasure should be known, we have therefore, for the present, complied with his request and beg to be favoured with your further orders regarding him.

40. The marine contract has been vested in Mr. McLary alone in consequence of Mr. Thomson's desire to be released from that engagement, previous to the execution of the deeds. Mr. McLary having given the additional security required of him on this account.

41. Captain Hiffernan, who formerly commanded the *Nancy* packet, has requested us to repeat our recommendation of the 30th April 1781 in his behalf, and once more urge you to assert his claim upon Admiral Sir Edward Hughes for the Spanish prize which he took acting under our commission whilst in the command of the *Nancy*, when an armed vessel in your service.

42. We trust however if this affair is not already settled that the regard which you have ever shewn to the rights and dignity of the Company, whose cause it may be considered, will naturally induce you to vindicate his title in whatever manner may be found necessary without any further intercession on our part.

43. The office of Master Attendant having been vacated since our

last by the resignation of Mr. Doveton, and Mr. Bowey, the person whom you had nominated to succeed thereto, having signified his desire to continue in the office of deputy, as his bad state of health prevented him from executing the duties of principal, we have thought proper to appoint Mr. Cudbert Thornhill, whom we strongly recommended to you, by the *Valentine*, for this trust. And we hope that he will be honored with your confirmation in the same.

44. In our letter by the *Surprize*, paragraph 71, you were advised of our having referred to arbitration Mr. Prinsep's claims to an indemnification for losses sustained in working the mines of Rotas and Monghyr, and establishing his mint for a copper coinage as a compensation for the surrender of his grant in conformity to your orders. Messrs. Croftes, Alexander and Paxton, the gentlemen chosen by us and approved by Mr. Prinsep to adjust this affair, delivered in their award on the day fixed (the 31st December last), and Mr. Prinsep in compliance therewith gave up his grant and all the implements for coinage. The grant has

24th January. been cancelled in due form and an order on the treasury was issued to Mr. Prinsep for the indemnity awarded, viz., current rupees 1,65,389, the full amount to which he had been required to restrict his demand on our acquiescing in the reference he solicited. In our consultations noted in the margin the several papers alluded to on this subject are recorded, together with Mr. Prinsep's final release under the approbation of the Advocate General.

45. Mr. Charles Chapman, your Revenue Chief at Boglepore, lately presented to us a detail of the services which have been rendered to the Company by Mr. Archibald Keir during a residence of 35 years in India, and solicited our recommendation of him to your favor and intercession for admission to your establishment of surgeons.

46. The circumstances recited by Mr. Keir are such plain matters of fact and related with so much candor that we cannot express our wishes more strongly, in his favor, than by adopting them as arguments for urging you to comply with his desire. We beg leave therefore to

28th January. refer you to his memorial at large in the consultation noted in the margin, and as we entertain a very favorable sense of this gentleman's merit we cannot but hope that you will confer this appointment upon him, particularly as many advantages have been derived from his professional abilities at the remote station where he resides.

47. The state of the treasuries:

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	38,402	1	8	
Khalsah	...	...	47,238	12	9	
						85,640 14 5

## Bills receivable

## General Treasury

Sicca rupees	15,30,534	7	10	17,75,420	0	0
Khalsah do.	1,96,153	5	4	2,27,537	13	10

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20,02,957 13 10

## Mint

General Treasury ... ..

Khalsah ... ..

20,857 12 2

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20,857, 12 2

Current rupees

21,09,456 8 5

Balance account deposits ...

6,38,519 6 6

do. Accomptant General to  
the Mayor's Court ...

1,20,161 13 9

do. of the old bonded debt  
on which the interest  
has ceased by public  
advertizement ...

45,117 0 8

New bonded debt at 8 per cent

1,57,26,907 12 11

4 per cent remittance loan ...

8,56,840 0 0

---

1,73,87,546 1 10

Fort William,  
the 22nd February 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

33

## LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1785

*Charles Stuart appointed President of the Board of Trade.*

**T**O the Honourable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable  
United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

We beg leave to inform you, in addition to our letter of yesterday, that the Board of Trade have at length thought proper to comply with our peremptory requisitions and have assented to admit the Honourable Charles Stuart to be their President, agreeably to his standing in your service. We have transmitted, a separate number in the packet, copies of the whole correspondence between us and the Board of Trade on this subject.

Fort William,  
the 23rd February 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

To the Honble Court of Directors for  
Affairs of the Honble United Company  
of Merchants of England Trading to  
the East Indies

Honble Sirs

We beg leave to inform you in  
addition to our Letter of yesterday that the Board of  
Trade have at length thought proper to comply with  
our peremptory Requisitions and have consented to  
admit the Honble Charles Stuart to be their  
President agreeably to his standing in your Service  
We have transmitted a separate Number in this  
Packet Copies of the whole Correspondence between  
us and the Board of Trade on this Subject.

We have the Honour to be  
Yours  
J<sup>o</sup> Williams  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1785





## LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1785

*Reasons for restricting supply of grain and specie to Madras—samples of gold bullion sent to the Tower to be assayed.*

**T**O the Honourable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. By the *Earl of Mansfield*, Captain Fraser, we had the honor to address you under dates the 22nd and 23rd instant, and to forward at the same time our broken set of proceedings, from this Department, for the month of January.

2. In the several letters, written by us, during this season you have been fully informed of the inconvenience and difficulties to which we have been subjected by the sudden and totally unexpected arrival of a number of the King's officers and men, that were sent here by the Presidency of Fort St. George for the purpose of being accommodated with passages to Europe.

3. The paragraphs of our letters upon this subject are so full and	
General Letters	circumstantial that it is only
per <i>Surprise</i> 10th December paragraphs 26-34.	necessary for us to refer you to
<i>Valentine</i> 17th January paragraph 22.	them, which we now do as
<i>Berrington</i> 31st January paragraph 7.	noted in the margin.
<i>Mansfield</i> 19th February paragraphs 32-6.	

4. We transmit you, by this opportunity, a particular account of disbursements to the King's officers and men, and a return of those sent home by the *Cornwallis*.

5. There yet remains one hundred and sixty four non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiments ordered home to be accommodated with passages to England; these we have destined to the *Hinchinbrooke* and *Glatton*.

6. Captain Pyne, one of His Majesty's officers belonging to the 102nd Regiment, has requested our intercession with your Honourable Court to admit him to participate in the benefits of the Military Fund.

7. We consider this gentleman as an object highly deserving some reward, through your usual benevolence and compassion, from a knowledge of his severe sufferings, meritorious conduct and respectable character, but we are aware that he cannot come within the limited legal description of that Fund, and can only therefore introduce him, in this mode, to your notice with our earnest solicitation in his behalf.

8. In our proceedings noted in the margin you will observe an

application from the Presidency of Fort St. George for a supply of fifty thousand bags of rice for their stores, as they were apprehensive of being unable to obtain any quantity of that article upon the Coast, owing to the uncommon drought of the season.

9. The motives which had induced us to restrain the President and Council there from drawing bills or procuring resources in any shape from hence continued the same, and as the embargo on the exportation of grain had been taken off, we were naturally led to conclude that the imports of grain in the common operations of trade would be more than sufficient to supply their wants; we were therefore compelled to act with the utmost caution in this business, and consequently complied with their request in part only, by promising to deviate in a small degree from our former determinations in accepting bills that they might draw upon us to the extent of two lacs of rupees, provided that amount was actually and bonafide applied to the purchase of rice, which their necessities absolutely required.

10. Much about the same time we received official accounts of their expected annual receipts and disbursements, and several statements which they declare to contain a distinct view of the real situation of your affairs under their charge. These we have referred to our Accountant General for his particular observations and report thereon. When we receive this report we shall consider it with the strictest attention and adopt easy measure for the relief of that Presidency, that a due regard to the more immediate exigencies of this Government and the actual exigencies of the Presidency of Bombay will admit.

11. We are persuaded that you will acquiesce in the propriety of our withholding our supplies while the extent of their wants was unknown and our own resources inadequate to the heavy demands upon us, and we are hopeful that you will approve our determination to restrict future supplies until such relief shall be afforded to this Presidency as will restore its credit which has long been at a very low ebb. The measures which you [we] are now adopting, and of which you will have particular notice of [from] the Secret Department of Inspection and Reduction, afford us a pleasing prospect of being soon in a situation to relieve the pressing wants of all the Presidencies. We have the happiness to inform you that the discount upon your bonds and treasury order has fallen very considerably within the present month. The discount upon treasury orders alone has fallen from 15 to 6 per cent, while orders upon your treasury bore so heavy a discount as 13 per cent, and while such orders were our principal medium or currency for discharging demands upon this Government it will readily occur to the Honourable Court that those demands would rise in a proportion to the discount upon your paper. The first step therefore to an actual reduction of your expences is to raise the value of the orders upon your treasury, for notwithstanding the most rigid attention on the part of your Government to restrain improper demands, yet when the medium of your disbursements is at a great discount means will

always be found to raise the price of every supply to Government to the actual value of the standard by which they are payed. Hence the enormous increase of your debts under the Presidency of Bombay. We have in contemplation an arrangement which will effectually provide for the regular payment of the interest of your bonded debt under this Government. But we wish not to solicit with approbation by stating to you what we intend to do, our dispatches by the *Hinchinbrooke*, though they are to be closed in a few days hence, will communicate to you our sentiments, more at large, relative to your bonded debt, the general regulation of your finance and our actual retrenchments.

12. Several deficiencies having arisen between the accounts of gold bullion sent at different times to Fort St. George we called upon our Mint Master, Mr. Paxton, to explain them. His reply, which we forward a number in this packet, having proved to us that it was occasioned by a difference in the mode of assaying, and his proposal for adjustment by a regular assay at the Tower being reasonable, we agreed to it and requested the President and Council at Fort St. George to forward to you all samples retained in their mint, that the decision might be effected without delay. Mr. Paxton has deposited Company's bonds for the amount which appears to be due from him on this account to the Company.

13. Mr. Paxton has since requested our permission to resign his office and to proceed to England for the purpose of adjusting his claim, on the part of his constituents, for the amount paid by him into the treasury at Chinsurah, previous to the capture of that place, which we have accordingly granted, and hope that his being on the spot will also facilitate the adjustment of the difference respecting the gold bullion. As this gentleman has ever conducted himself to our satisfaction in the discharge of his official duty, under this Government, we cannot but express our approbation of his services accordingly.

14. We are sorry to inform you that Mr. Richard Waring, one of your civil servants, died at Dacca on the [...] instant, and Mr. William Johnson when [whom] you appointed in your letter of 16th March 1784, upon a supposition that Mr. Waring had died prior to this period, has been admitted in the list of your servants in his room.

15. The Board of Trade having represented to us that they could nearly complete the lading of the *Hinchinbrooke* we have at their recommendation altered the destination of this ship and shall despatch Captain Maxwell within the period prescribed by charterparty.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money					
General Treasury	...	...	84,621	11	2
Khalsah	...	...	42,064	14	7
				<hr/>	
				1,26,686	9 9



## Bills receivable

## General Treasury

Sicca rupees	15,30,534	7	10	17,75,420	0	0
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## Khalsah

Sicca rupees	2,97,658	8	4	3,45,283	14	2
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	21,20,703	14	2
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## Mint

## General

...	...
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## Khalsah

...	...	20,857	12	2
-----	-----	--------	----	---

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	20,857	12	2
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## Unsorted treasure

## Khalsah

from Burdwan	...	2,883-10-10
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Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees		3,172	0	4
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Current rupees

22,71,420	4	5
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Balance account deposits

...	6,34,773	1	5
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Do. Accomptant General to the

Mayor's Court

...	...	1,20,161	13	9
-----	-----	----------	----	---

Do. of the old bonded debt on  
which the interest has ceased by  
public advertisement

...	45,117	0	8
-----	--------	---	---

New bonded debt at 8 per cent

...	1,57,26,907	12	11
-----	-------------	----	----

4 per cent remittance loan

...	8,56,840	0	0
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1,73,83,799	12	9
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Fort William,  
the 26th February 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## 35

## LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1785

*Act of Parliament for the better regulation and management of the affairs of the Company—translation of the Act into Bengali and Persian—copies of it to be sent to all the Presidencies.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

We have the honor to inform you that on the 25th instant we

received and read in Council your letters of the 20th August and 10th September, the former covering copy of the Act passed in the 24th year of the reign of His Present Majesty entitled "an Act for the better regulation and the management of the affairs of the East India Company and of the British possessions in India, and for establishing a Court of Judicature for the more speedy and effectual trial of persons accused of offences committed in the East Indies." Your letter of the 10th September notified the appointments which you have made in consequence of that Act.

2. These advices arrived at Bombay on the 7th ultimo, and were on the 11th dispatched from thence by His Majesty's sloop *Lizard*, under the command of the Honourable Captain Fitzroy.

3. We on receiving the dispatches by the *Lenord* [*Lizard*] assembled in Council and after having read the Act adjourned to the next day, previously ordering one hundred copies of the Act to be immediately printed by the Honourable Company's printer. We called upon the Advocate General to inform us of the most effectual legal mode of promulgating the Act throughout the provinces.

4. On the 26th we again read the Act in Council, and resolved to get it translated into the Bengal and Persian languages. We advised the different Presidencies of our having received the Act, and that we would take immediate measure according to its regulation and provisions.

5. We also resolved that all such parts as relate to the enlarged controul of this Government over the different Presidencies and all matters of alliance and connection with the native states should be communicated to them.

6. According to the 27th clause of the Act we directed the Honourable Charles Stuart, being the senior covenanted servant on this establishment, to be summoned to attend our meeting this day. He attended according[ly] and the usual oaths being administered to him he took his seat as a member of the Supreme Council.

Fort William,  
the 28th February 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1785

*Calcutta Council justifies its action in appointing Stuart President of the Board of Trade.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] We did not wish to make any comment on the correspondence that has lately passed between us and the Board of Trade, relative to their compliance with your orders in favor of the Honourable Charles Stuart.

[2] Those orders were clear and explicit, they directed that when a vacancy happened in the Board of Trade after Mr. Stuart's arrival he should then take his seat at that Board according to his rank and standing in your service. That rank and standing was admitted by the Board of Trade to be above their oldest member and resident, no position therefore could be clearer than that Mr. Stuart could not sit at the Board of Trade in conformity to your orders but as President of the Board, for in any other place at that Board he must have sat below his rank and standing in your service.

[3] We were persuaded that the correspondence that has passed between us and the Board of Trade upon this subject would draw your attention; and as throughout that correspondence we had not a wish but that of seeing your orders obeyed we left it to your own voluntary suggestion, uninfluenced by any representation on our part, to pass an opinion on the proceedings of the Board of Trade. Their address, which was only sent to our Secretary late last night just on the eve of closing our dispatches to your Honourable Court of the 22nd of this month, and especially the 12th paragraph of that address call upon your most serious attention.

[4] Had your Governor General and Council ordered a junior servant to every member of the Board of Trade to supercede them and assume and execute the office of President of that Board their remonstrance to your Honourable Court could not be in more violent terms.

[5] Had we ordered such a supercession the responsibility rested with us, and if we could not have convinced you of the wisdom or necessity of our conduct we remained amenable to your justice and to punishment. We conceive it had, in even such an extraordinary case, been the duty of your Board of Trade to have complied with our orders. For the real security of your property might depend upon an obedience to such orders, independent of the example of obedience necessary from your oldest civil servants under this Government.

[6] But when the authority we have exercised has been only to enforce, after long delays, your positive and incontestible orders in favor of senior servants to the members of the Board of Trade, and when an opposition has been raised to the execution of those orders, such as the correspondence between us and the Board of Trade will testify and such as we conceive to have been scarcely justifiable in the most opposite case of irregularity on our part, we must leave it to your Honourable Court to reflect upon the circumstances of this contest, and by your decision on it to pronounce us blamable if we have exceeded our duty, or to establish a limit beyond which it may be dangerous for any of your servants civil or military to question the authority under which we act.

[7] Your Honourable Court may depend upon it that we shall execute what we conceive our necessary duty in such cases in future, however painful it may be to our feelings. But there is an ultimate duty which rests with your Court, and of which the consequences must even be important in its influence over a dominion ruled upon the principles on which your tenure of this country depends.

Fort William,  
the 1st March 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

### 37

## LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1785

*Explanation for deficiency in the amount of goods provided by the Board of Trade—Governor General's proposal for a better regulation of the police of Calcutta—Steele's case—officers resigning the Company's service or proceeding on leave required to produce the Paymaster's certificate that their dues have been cleared—Colonel Watson's case—Calcutta Government accused of bribing men from King's regiments to enter the Company's service.*

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have now the honor to address you by the *Hinchinbrooke* and to transmit our broken sett of proceedings for the month of February, also duplicates of our several letters by the *Cornwallis*.

2. In our last letter we advised you that the *Hinchinbrooke* had



been surveyed and reported in compleat repair. We therefore, though late in the season, consider it in every point of view an object of great importance to dispatch this ship to Europe without further detention, particularly as some of the Lucknow goods, which we had permitted the Board of Trade to purchase of Mr. Scott, as well as a small part of the investment of 1783/4 remained in the warehouse.

3. Another powerful inducement for this measure was the assurance of the Board of Trade that all the goods would be shipped before the expiration of the period limited by charterparty. We have however been disappointed in this, but have the satisfaction to inform you that the cargo, which would otherwise have been deficient, has since been compleated by the arrival of fresh goods of the current year's investment, and as this vessel is said to sail very well we hope you will sustain no loss or inconvenience from the lateness of her dispatch.

4. We received a letter from Captain Maxwell claiming a loan on account of his ship according to the terms of the charterparty. This application we thought proper to refer to your Advocate General for his opinion, which having received Consultation 14th February. we now transmit it, together with copy of Captain Maxwell's letter for your information. Finding however that it would be impossible to get the *Hinchinbrooke* away without affording the assistance solicited we have issued to Captain Maxwell current rupees 27,000, for which he has mortgaged the freight that may become due on account the ship; the mortgage bond we enclose number in packet.

5. The *Glatton*, ballasted with saltpetre, has been dispatched to take up a cargo of pepper at Fort Marlborough. Captain Drummond will receive sundry stores, to be delivered to the President and Council at Fort St. George, which having effected he will proceed according to his destination.

6. Mr. Droz, a member of your Board of Trade, having represented to us that he had sustained very heavy losses, and had been compelled to submit to extreme inconvenience from the receipt of bonds in payment for the investment which he provided at Cossimbuzar in 1781, obtained our permission to make application for treasury orders in exchange for such bonds as his real exigencies required, but as many persons were in a similar situation with Mr. Droz, and consequently equally entitled to this indulgence we were under the necessity of rescinding that resolution in his favor. We however permitted him to exchange bonds to the amount of 30,000 rupees, lest the alteration might be prejudicial to the arrangements which he had actually made in consequence of our first resolution. Consultation 17th January. Consultation 21st February.

7. Mr. Droz expressed his thanks for this favor, and requested our intercession with your Honourable Court to obtain a compliance with his wishes. We promised to transmit his letter a number in this packet,

but declined to recommend his request as it must inevitably subject you to the same inconveniencies which we experienced in bringing forward more applications and claims of the same nature.

8. Mr. Joseph Dixon, of your civil establishment, having requested our permission to return to Europe for the adjustment of his private concerns, in consequence of the general licence to that effect which we held forth to your servants in our resolutions in the Secret Department of Inspection, we accordingly granted him the indulgence. As he conducted himself to our satisfaction, when in employ, we recommend him to be restored to your service as soon as the situation of his private affairs shall admit of his application for it.

9. We transmit you, a number in the packet, a letter just received from the Board of Trade, in reply to ours of the 22nd November last, on the subject of the deficiency in the account of goods provided and to be provided with the funds upon which you had reckoned when your reports were made to the Honourable House of Commons, under date the 14th February and 31st May '84.

10. In the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th paragraphs of our addresses to your Honourable Court under date the 10th December 1784, per *Surprize*, we expatiated upon this subject in as full and circumstantial a manner as the materials we had at that time before us would admit, and we shall now contrast the information recently received from the Board of Trade with that furnished you by the *Surprize*.

11. The amount, which we had reason to expect would have been laden upon ships dispatched in 1783/4 and in 1784/5 to 10th March 1785, as stated in that letter, is ...	...	...	3,55,12,240-9-4
The amount of goods exported by the Board of Trade in 1783/4 was ...	...	...	2,13,63,553-0-0
Do. in 1784/5 to 1st March 1785 ...	...	...	1,04,41,195-0-0
Goods expected to complete the subscription investment of 1782/3 ...	...	...	1,70,394-0-0
Do. do. 1783/4 ...	...	...	23,52,650-0-0
			<hr/>
			3,43,27,792-0-0
Deficiency by these data ...	...	...	11,84,448-9-4

12. You will observe that of this deficiency the Board of Trade have accounted for no more than current rupees 8,59,640-5-3 in the statement which accompanied their letter of the 15th March, although they have made a deduction of current rupees 1,60,757-4-4 from what had been realized on account of the investments of 1782/3 and 1783/4 by the 28th February 1785, the particulars of this deduction not having been stated to us we cannot take upon ourselves to admit it, supposing however the

amount of these two deductions being current rupees 10,20,397-9-7 to be taken from the deficiency before stated there would remain current rupees 1,64,050-15-9 unaccounted for, which we shall call upon the Board of Trade to explain.

13. In the 17th paragraph of our letter by the *Surprize* we stated the grounds on which we concluded that had the Board of Trade realized the investment of 1783/4 in the usual period (viz., 10th March 1785) they would have had goods to the amount of current rupees 1,19,18,079-13-7 to lade upon the ships to be dispatched between 20th November 1784 and 10th March 1785. It however now appears that notwithstanding they exported in 1784/5 goods to the amount of current rupees 1,04,41,195 they yet expected to realize current rupees 25,23,044 in goods on account of the investment of 1782/3 and 1783/4. This with the beforementioned sum of 1,04,41,195 and current rupees 1,60,757-4-4, which has been deducted by the Board of Trade for contingencies, amount to current rupees 1,31,24,996-4-4, exceeding our former estimate by current rupees 12,06,916-6-9. The Board of Trade having realized current rupees 2,04,317 on account of old investments and current rupees 5,23,095 on account of the subscription investment, and expecting yet to realize current rupees 1,70,394 on the same accounts which we did not then reckon upon, the practicability of the recovery not being officially stated to us, these three sums amount to current rupees 8,97,806, which deducted from the excess upon our former estimate leave current rupees 3,09,110-6-9, of which we shall require an explanation. But as we are not likely to obtain an answer to any formal reference we may make to the Board of Trade on this subject, in time to transmit the same to you by the present conveyance we must leave it at present in a state of unadjustment.

14. The data exhibited by the above differing considerably from those upon which our Accountant General reckoned, when he formed the observations upon your reports to the Honourable House of Commons, dated 14th February and 31st May 1784, renders it necessary to send you a separate number in this packet his report to us of the effect which this information will produce upon your expectations from the amount appropriated by us to the commercial investments, and the alteration which may now be expected in the amount you will have to pay for our draughts and certificates of 1784/5, a practice which we shall direct him to follow by the last ship of each season so long as the same circumstances shall appear equally necessary to be pointed out to your particular attention.

15. We transmit you, numbers in this packet, copies of letters from your Commander in Chief and Surgeon General, and several petitions, which accompanied them, from the assistant surgeons who were dismissed in consequence of your orders of the 16th March 1784.

16. The representations of these gentlemen will point out the hardship of their case. We feel the cruelty of it so forcibly that we must beg leave, in the most earnest manner, to recommend it to your favourable attention.

17. On the 21st instant the Governor General laid before us a proposition for the better regulation of the police of Calcutta without any encrease of expence to the Company or to the inhabitants. The general reduction of the salaries and allowances of the Company's servants renders it an object of the most serious importance to reduce the necessary expences of living in your principal settlement. This can only be done by example, by a well regulated police, by reducing the encreased wages of native servants, and by keeping the markets untaxed, and removing all improper imposts upon the necessaries of life, and improving the roads that lead from the country to Calcutta. To each of these objects we shall pay attention. The Governor General's minute goes a number in the packet, and we have concurred with him in the regulations which he has submitted to our approbation.

18. In consultation 18th June you will find recorded a letter from the Military Paymaster General respecting the balance due and retrenchments from the disbursements of Mr. R. G. Steele, late Paymaster to the troops in the Zemindarry of Benares and to the garrison of Chunar, amounting to current rupees 1,80,432-5-1. The different articles of charge are particularly explained, and our resolution will point out the sums for which Mr. Steele was held responsible and those from which he was exonerated.

19. Mr. Steele at different times appealed against the decision we had passed, but as he did not state any new matter  
 Consultations 5th, 16th and 23rd August. to induce us to rescind our resolutions we held him indebted to the Company for the sum of current rupees 27,791-11-1, and responsible for the amount of certain parts of the retrenchments on his accounts which it might not be in the power of the Military Paymaster General to recover, and for which Mr. Steele was ordered to give security previous to his quitting this country.

20. Mr. Steele though repeatedly called upon to give the security required constantly evaded it; he also evaded to pay the balances due from him to the Company, and country [contrary] to our express orders proceeded to Europe on a foreign ship.

21. By this time the Military Paymaster General reported another demand against him for current rupees three hundred and forty four, one anna and seven pice, which made his debt to the  
 Consultation 1st September. Company amount to current rupees 28,135-12-8. He also reported that the amount of retrenchments for which he was to find security, if they should not be recovered, was reduced to the sum of current rupees 21,212-4-8.

22. On the 3rd November we called upon the Military Paymaster General for an exact statement of the retrenchments from Mr. Steele's accounts, which he deemed irrecoverable, as well as a general account of the balances due from him that the sums might be carried to his debit to enable you to prosecute him in England for the amount,



23. In consequence of this order the Military Paymaster General in his letter of 20th December, recorded in Consultation 12th January, extract of which goes herewith a number in the packet, informed us that the claims of the Company on Mr. Steele for retrenchments still continued as above. At the same time he communicated to us that from a memorandum of Mr. Steele's, respecting the Commissary General's retrenchments, it appeared that he (Mr. Steele) had recovered the sum of current rupees seventeen thousand and fourteen, fourteen annas and six pice (17014-14-6) on account of his retrenchments, for which he had never given him credit. Upon this information we called upon the Military Paymaster General to verify upon oath that the sum so recovered had not been brought to credit; his affidavit goes herewith a number in the packet, with copies of the accounts current delivered in by Mr. Steele to him. The claims therefore of the Honourable Company on Mr. Steele to be recovered by you in England are as follow, viz.,

On account of pay and <i>batta</i> drawn as Paymaster to Colonel Blair's detachment from February 1782 to August 1783 inclusive, disallowed by order of the Board dated the 16th August as he received a commission on his disbursements in lieu of pay and allowances. He likewise drew twice the allowance for <i>sircars</i> and shroffs, once as Paymaster to the garrison of Chunar and once as Paymaster to the troops serving in the Zemindary of Benares from 18th January 1782 to 31st August 1783 inclusive, making the sum of current rupees	...	...	...	...	16,086	7	9
Commission drawn by him on his disbursements which the Board determined to be the property of Mr. Perreau, his predecessor in office	...	...	...	...	4,329	12	0
A retrenchment on his commission account made by the Commissary General	...	...	...	...	637	15	6
Retrenchments recovered by Mr. Steele according to a memorandum at the foot of his last account current never given credit (as he ought to have done) when he was exonerated from the retrenchments above stated	...	...	...	...	17,014	14	6
in all current rupees					38,069	1	9

besides being answerable for the amount, which may not be recovered, of the sum of current rupees 21,212-4-8 due on account of retrenchments from which he has never been exonerated.

24. As Mr. Steele is in England we trust and hope it will be in your power to recover the above sum of current rupees 38,069-1-9. We transmit a notarial copy of his appointments, a number in the packet, understanding that this document is a necessary voucher for you.

25. Having given you this detail, relative to the claims of this Government against Mr. Steele, it is proper to inform you at the same time that at the period of his appointment to the office of Paymaster to the garrison of Chunar he was not in your service, nor were the usual securities taken from him. He was suddenly removed from office, not in consequence of any misconduct but in obedience to your command, contained in your letter of 26th September 1782, directing that "none but covenanted servants should hold any employment in your service under this Presidency". That removal he will of course plead as the cause of his inability to recover the retrenchments made in his accounts, and he will probably state that those very retrenchments were not made till it was too late for him to recover them. We have thought it our duty to place the subject fully before you, that having examined it in every light you may adopt the necessary measures in consequence. Copies of his accounts current, as sent in by the Military Paymaster General, go numbers in this packet.

26. The Military Paymaster General having reported a sum due from Major Law of current rupees 618-2 his attorney  
 Consultation 26th October. was called upon to refund this amount, which he refused saying he was positively forbid by his instructions from paying any sums without express orders.

27. We think it proper to point this out to your particular notice that you may take the necessary steps for recovering the amount from Major Law who is in England. To prevent similar inconveniencies we some time ago issued in General Orders that no officer should be allowed to resign the service or quit the country until the Paymaster's certificate, that he has no demand upon him for the Commissary General's retrenchments, shall be produced.

28. We beg leave to inform you that the charges which were incurred by the Company in sending back to this country Mrs. Murray's native servant Betty have been recovered of Colonel Murray,  
 Consultation 7th February. agreeably to the account which you transmitted, amounting to current rupees 255-9-6, and will be credited in the Military Paymaster General's books accordingly. The indemnification bond has in consequence been delivered up to Colonel Murray.

29. The regulations for carrying into effectual execution our plan for the general retrenchment of expence in your civil and military establishments having been already communicated to you,  
 Consultation 10th February. from our Secret Department of Inspection, and the grounds on which it was founded, it only remains for us to acquaint you in this Department with the names of those gentlemen who have since obtained our permission to proceed to Europe according to the terms which we demand it necessary to prescribe, viz.,

## On half pay to be received in England

Consultation 10th February	John McCra Assistant Surgeon
Do. Do.	Lieutenant Wattle
Consultation 3rd March	Ensign Purefoy
Consultation 17th March	Lieutenant Lucadou

## On full pay to be received in Bengal

7th March	Captain Lieutenant Holland
10th February	Lieutenants Browne
Do. do.	Calcraft
3rd March	Duff
Do. do.	Frushard
Do. do.	Bradshaw
17th do.	Hunter

30. We have now to request that you will afford your sanction to the above regulation, in complying with the terms of it so far as respects the issues of half pay in England not doubting but on mature consideration you will approve the general plan and authorize its continuance.

31. The following officers have been allowed to resign your service since our last advices, as will appear in the consultations noted in the margin, viz.,

Consultations 7th, 14th and 21st February.	Captains Williams and Broome
	Lieutenants Bie and A. Tremamondo

32. Mr. Blankey Smyth, formerly a cadet in your service, has been permitted to proceed to England in the *Hinchinbrooke* on the terms of charterparty, at the intercession of the Commander in Chief.

33. Colonel Watson has applied to us to defend another prosecution commenced against him, in the Supreme Court of Judicature, by one Dotteram Tarrufdar, upon the supposition that it is incumbent on us to vindicate the grant of land at Kidderpore which he obtained from you in England; but as this matter has long since been referred to you for instructions and as we have not yet received your orders upon the subject we declined any interference in this business.

34. Major John Grattan has repeatedly solicited us to permit him to draw his allowances and establishment as Adjutant General of His Majesty's forces in India from Bengal. As the President and Council of Fort St. George refused to issue them, notwithstanding this gentleman had been appointed to that station by His Majesty's late Commander in Chief in India and although the King has been graciously pleased to confirm that appointment, we have therefore directed the same allowances as are drawn by the Adjutant General at Fort St. George to be issued to him here untill your pleasure is known.

35. Captain Pinkerton of the 98th Regiment having preferred sundry claims of his own and other officers' of that Regiment upon the Company, as recorded in our proceedings, we declined taking cognizance of them as we could not think of interfering with the internal arrangements of other Presidencies under which they originated. We therefore ordered all the bills to be returned to him, and accordingly referred him to Fort St. George and Bombay; to which places he is gone to obtain their final adjustment.

36. Colonel Gordon having sent in sundry bills containing claims upon the Company which originated at Fort St. George and Bombay we were compelled to return them to him, as in similar cases, to be adjusted where they were incurred.

Consultations 24th  
January, 14th Feb-  
ruary.

37. You will receive herewith accounts of advances which have been made to the commanders of the Indiamen for the passage of His Majesty's officers and troops. But as these will not be found to correspond exactly with the embarkation returns, which will be transmitted to your Secretary by the Agent for dispatching the Company's ships, we think it proper and necessary to account for the differences by informing you that after the troops had been finally paid up and actually sent down the river we considered the letter and spirit of His Majesty's orders, under date the 11th and 30th September 1783, had been fully adhered, and as it was a matter of the utmost importance to your service to secure as many of this [these] men for this establishment as might be induced to return by an extraordinary bounty, we sent officers down the river with authority to offer the bounty usually given by the Company and to enlist as many men as could be prevailed upon to return. The success which this measure has been attended with will fully appear to you from a comparison of Mr. Cox's embarkation returns with the accounts of the Deputy Paymaster, which you will be able to check from the above, and accordingly call on the respective commanders to refund what they may have been over paid.

38. Our letters and the consultations, which accompanied them, would from time to time acquaint you of every thing that has occurred since the arrival of His Majesty's troops in Bengal, and the difficulties we have experienced in carrying into execution your orders relative to the recruiting service from the reduced regiments.

Consultations 13th,  
21st and 29th Octo-  
ber, 15th December,  
17th and 31st Janu-  
ary and 21st March.

39. As the ship by which this letter is to be dispatched carries home the remaining part of His Majesty's troops, for whom we have been obliged at so heavy an expence to provide a passage to England, we cannot convey to you a stronger proof of the impediments that have been thrown in the way of the public interest, by discouraging the non-commissioned and privates of His Majesty's regiments to enlist in your service, than by sending you, a number in the packet, a letter which we received from Colonel Gordon by the hands of the pilot who carried out the



*Cornwallis* after that ship had actually sailed. A copy of Colonel Gordon's letter and a plain narrative of the circumstances which produced it should be laid before His Majesty's Secretary of State; and we doubt not but every minister, who has the public interest at heart, will see the impropriety of the letter.

40. Your Honourable Court is already informed of the embarrassments to which we have been subjected by Major General Campbell's construction of His Majesty's orders of 10th and 30th September 1783 through the Secretary of State and those of the 11th September 1783 through the Secretary of War.

41. If the privates of the regiments to be reduced had been either disposed or encouraged to enter into His Majesty's regiments, that are ordered to remain in India, they had an option and the proper opportunity for so doing before they left Fort St. George in September last.

42. For our parts it was indifferent to us whether these men enlisted in the Company's or the royal regiments. In either service they added equally to the force of the Company in India, and independant of the very great expence which an European soldier costs the Company before he lands in India the value of such a soldier inured to war and the climate was great indeed.

43. It would require different calculation to shew you even in a mercantile view the total expence of an European soldier before he is landed in India, but in a political light an individual soldier hardened to war and the climate is a public acquisition. Any attempt to detain these soldiers contrary to their own wishes would frustrate the design; we left them full freedom to return according to the proclamation, but in that freedom we created the best encouragement and inducement to them to stay. Our orders of the 21st October shew clearly that we adhered scrupulously to the letter and spirit of His Majesty's commands of the 10th September 1783, communicated to you by the Secretary of State.

44. But after these soldiers had not only refused to enlist in the King's regiments at Fort St. George, and after they had the option to re-enlist for the same regiments here or to remain with the 2 battalions of the 42 and after they had proceeded a hundred miles down the river and were on the point of sailing for Europe, we thought it would have been criminal in us, towards the national interest as well as the Company's, not to offer them a small additional bounty provided they returned to serve the Company. It is this additional bounty, so offered and in such a stage of their voyage to Europe, that Colonel Gordon is pleased to call a purpose in the Governor General and Council to bribe soldiers, contrary to His Majesty's orders, to enter into the Company's service inconsistently with our judicial authority.

45. We venture to declare that there is a heavy responsibility some-

where, relative to either the orders sent out about the return of these troops or the construction and execution of those orders.

46. Every soldier who had been prevented from enlisting in your service is a loss to the nation at large. They all to a very few would have been glad to have enlisted. But at first those who offered to enlist were confined in their regimental guards, afterwards discharges were refused and other obstruction thrown in the way to them, and ultimately you see the turn that is given to a fair and liberal encouragement to them to remain in the service.

47. You will find that when they settle their claims with their respective officers they will be happy to return to your service from England.

48. You have been put to the enormous expence, which your accounts will shew for the passage of these men to Europe when the service they had seen and the want of European soldiers rendered their stay most valuable to the interests of the Company and the nation at large.

49. In regard to the inattention of which Colonel Gordon complains from the Commander in Chief we have to observe that the Commander in Chief has no military authority as Commander in Chief in Calcutta, that Colonel Gordon lived in the town of Calcutta and not in Fort William, and that we paid him the full allowances of Colonel commanding a brigade beside house rent.

50. As we have never made any distinctions between your and the public service, as true zeal for His Majesty's service is best certified in forwarding the public interest under any local description so we are persuaded that where that interest is impeded and sacrificed, to any prejudices or other views, disapprobation must mark the instance.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money									
General Treasury					47,429	9	9		
Khalsah		...	...		56,181	8	5		
						<hr/>			
								1,03,611	2 2
Bills receivable									
General Treasury		...	...	...					
Sicca rupees		12,15,671	7	9	14,10,178	14	9		
Khalsah do.		2,07,429	5	9	2,40,618	0	0		
						<hr/>			
								16,50,796	14 9
						<hr/>			
						Current rupees		17,54,408	0 11

Balance account deposits	...	6,30,100	4	0	
Do. Accomptant General to the					
Mayor's Court	...	1,20,161	13	9	
Do. of the old bonded debt on					
which the interest has ceased					
by public advertisement	...	45,117	0	8	
New bonded debt at 8 per cent	...	1,57,26,907	12	11	
4 per cent remittance loan	...	8,56,840	0	0	
					1,73,79,126 15 4

Fort William,  
the 23rd March 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

38

## LETTER DATED 28 APRIL 1785

*A court of enquiry to investigate the loss of the Hinchinbrooke—  
instructions regarding the investment of 1785/6—Madras permitted to  
draw five lakhs from Calcutta.*

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable  
United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Having resolved in the Political Department to dispatch the *Eliza* snow to Bussorah we avail ourselves of this opportunity of communicating to you the total loss of the Honourable Company's ship *Hinchinbrooke*, which happened on the head of the Long Sand, near the Cockerlee Buoy, on the 10th instant, as she was returning to Kedgerree having put back from stress of weather before the pilot had left her.

2. We understand that the ship proved leaky in her upper works, and was in other respects unfit to proceed to sea, but cannot at present give you any further particulars of this event than those contained in the accompanying papers, untill the Court, which we have ordered to enquire into the loss of this vessel, shall have sent in their proceedings. We have however the satisfaction to inform you that the crew and passengers, except two or three, were saved.

3. At the same time that we regret the loss of so valuable a cargo which amounted to current rupees 7,84,270-0-0, and the disappointment your Honourable Court will in consequence experience, we must acquaint you of all the circumstances relative to this unfortunate ship previous to her dispatch, and of our motives and inducements for sending her home.

4. In  
the *Hinchi*

Consultatic  
17th July.

*Hinchinbre*



10. We advised you in our letter of the 23rd ultimo, of which we have now the honor to transmit you copy the original being lost in the *Hinchinbrooke*, that we were obliged in order to enable Captain Maxwell to proceed to sea to advance him current rupees twenty seven thousand which he claimed on the terms of charterparty. He requested at the same time to be allowed a small quantity of marine stores, which we also granted, having no other alternative than that of complying with his request or suffering a ship, which had already been nearly four years in India, to remain another season and thereby deprived us of the great objects of putting a stop to the demurrage of the *Hinchinbrooke*, and of making a seasonable remittance to the Company. Captain Maxwell gave his bond for both sums, binding himself that they should be paid out of the freight which would be due to the ship, and as the owners have no doubt insured this freight you will have a claim upon them for the amount.

11. As soon as we receive the proceedings of the Court ordered to enquire into the loss of the *Hinchinbrooke* we shall transmit it to you with every other document on this subject necessary for your information.

12. The period being nearly arrived when preparations should be made for the provision of the ensuing year's investment we took into our most serious consideration your orders thereon, and how far the resources of this Government would enable us to carry those orders into execution, and have resolved

First, that the sum of current rupees forty five lacs (C. Rs. 45,00,000) including the three lacs advanced on the 16th December 1784 to the Board of Trade for saltpetre be allotted for the provision of every part of the Honourable Company's investment for the year ending the 30th April 1786.

Secondly, that the Board of Trade be requested to apportion, and form a list of the investment to be provided according to the sum allotted and the orders of the Company, proportionally increasing the quantity of goods which may appear to be most advantageous, and diminishing those by which the Company sustain a loss.

Thirdly, that this investment be provided by contract in conformity to the commands of the Honourable the Court of Directors, contained in the 2nd paragraph of their letter of the 23rd April.

Fourthly, that as soon as the list of investment, (to be formed according to the 2nd resolution) shall be approved by this Board the Board of Trade do advertize in the public papers, and at all the factories and *aurungs* for sealed proposals to contract for the investment of 1785/6, which proposals are to be delivered to the Governor General and Council according to the orders of the Company.

And we have requested the Board of Trade to adopt such measures

for carrying these resolutions into immediate execution as they may think necessary and effectual.

13. In consequence of repeated and recent representations from the Government of Fort St. George for further supplies, though unaccompanied by any of those official statements of their resources and wants which we have so often but in vain required from that Presidency, we have lately empowered them to draw upon us to the amount of five lacs of rupees, and have paid for a quantity of grain [for] which they purchased certificates upon us.

14. We have likewise assured them that upon transmitting to us accurate statements of their finances and wants we will distribute to them their full proportion of the surplus resource of this Government, and we have it now in contemplation to make considerable remittances to Bombay, and to give the utmost support to your trade in China as you will be advised more fully from the Secret Department.

The state of the treasuries this day is as follows:

Ready money						
General Treasury	...	...	74,965	6	9	
Khalsah	...	...	42,200	11	9	
				<hr/>		
				1,17,166	2	6
Bills receivable						
General Treasury						
Sicca rupees	10,07,783	10 2	11,69,029	0	3	
Khalsah						
Sicca rupees	94,749	2 0	1,09,908	15	9	
				<hr/>		
				12,78,938	0	0
Unsorted treasure						
Khalsah						
from Midnapore ... 10,121						
Valued at 10 per cent better than current rupees				11,133	1	8
				<hr/>		
Current rupees ...				14,07,237	4	2
Balance account deposits ...				4,68,411	6	1
Do. Accomptant General to the						
Mayor's Court ...				1,20,161	13	9
Do. of the old bonded debt on						
which the interest has ceased						
by publick advertisement ...				45,117	0	8
New bonded debt at 8 per cent ...				1,57,28,836	11	2
4 per cent remittance loan ...				8,56,840	0	0
				<hr/>		
				1,72,19,366	15	8

Fort William,  
the 28th April 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1785

*Lord Macartney's visit to Calcutta—Committee of Seamen examine the eastern channel of the Hooghly—Calcutta Council obliged to accede to Board of Trade's recommendations regarding the 1785/6 investment—Barton's request that he be allowed to fill in Stuart's vacancy at the Board of Trade during the latter's absence—death of Doctor Koenig, the botanist—repairs of the Calcutta Fort draw-bridges and water gateways—experiment of storing grain in air-tight golahs proves successful—measures to lower the prices of necessities of life—utility of the Calcutta-Chunar road—compensation paid to King's troops for loss of property during the return voyage—commanders of ships warned against receiving deserters.*

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. Since our last letter from this Department under date 28th April, of which we enclose a duplicate, we have had the honor to receive your dispatches of the 9th and 10th December per *Fox*, together with duplicates thereof by His Majesty's sloop *Cygnets*.

2. By this conveyance we have the honor to transmit you our broken sett of proceedings in the Public Department, commencing with the first consultation in February and concluding with our proceedings of the 26th ultimo, and complete indexes thereof.

3. We have the pleasure of acquainting you with the safe arrival here, on the 21st instant, of Lieutenant General Robert Sloper, and of his having taken his seat at our Board on that day.

Consultation  
21st July.

4. The Honourable Company's armed ship *Swallow*, under the command of Captain Penny, imported here with dispatches from Bombay on the 3rd June.

Consultation  
3rd June.

5. The Right Honourable Lord Macartney, your late President of Fort St. George, having visited this place in the *Greyhound* packet we received him with all the honors due to his rank and his late station. Soon after his arrival he expressed a desire of proceeding to Europe as expeditiously as possible, and requested (if it was not attended with any public inconvenience) that we would appoint your ship *Swallow* for his conveyance. Not knowing of any particular service for the *Swallow* we readily complied with His Lordship's desire, and immediately ordered Captain Penny to prepare for sea.

Consultation  
11th July.

6. The next day we received a letter from Captain Penny requesting to resign his command, which we accepted, and turned over Captain Anderson and the crew of the *Greyhound* to the *Swallow*; allotting the *Greyhound* for the purpose of conveying the officers [of the] military detachment and the crew belonging to the Bombay Marine to their establishment.

Consultation  
18th July.

7. We have fixed the number of men for the *Swallow* according to your instructions respecting [.....]. A list thereof with an account of advances made for the outfit of the purpose of ascertaining the cause thereof; we pro-  
packet.

Consultation  
26th July.

8. In our dispatches of 28th April, by the way of Bussorah, you were apprized of the unfortunate wreck of the *Hinchinbrooke*, and that a court of enquiry had been ordered to assemble for the purpose of ascertaining the cause thereof; we promised to communicate to you the report of that court, and it is now forwarded a number in this packet. The perusal of it will convince you that the loss is to be attributed principally to the ignorance or inattention of the helmsman, though perhaps a general deficiency in the number both of officers and men may also be adduced as an assistant cause. The pilot who had charge of the ship has, agreeably to established usage, been dismissed your service.

20th June.

9. Having received reports that the eastern channel of this river was a better navigation for large ships than the old one, in common use, we determined to avail ourselves of its advantage, and accordingly ordered our Master Attendant to direct all the pilots to bring up the Company's ships (if it could be done without risk) to Culpee, instead of mooring them, as was formerly the case, at Kedgerree.

Consultation 11th  
July.

10. But our Master Attendant, having since been on a survey of the river, has recommended a place still nearer Calcutta as possessing superior advantages to either Kedgerree or Culpee. This induced us to appoint a committee of the most experienced seafaring men in the settlement to proceed down the river and examine it. Messieurs Page Keble and Joseph Price accordingly executed this service; and we beg leave to refer you to their report, as well as that of the Master Attendant which we enclose numbers in the packet. These will point out to you, as they have done to us, the great benefits to be derived from this situation and the propriety of our adopting, without hesitation, the plan proposed by the Master Attendant. We shall take the necessary measures for carrying it into complete effect, and we rely on the event for your fullest approbation.

Consultation 20th  
June.

11. We transmit you, a number in the packet, a proposal which has been submitted to us by Mr. Luard for the establishment of regular



packets for the conveyance of your advices via Bussorah. But as the carrying this plan into execution would be [attended] with very great expence we must, previous to such a measure, obtain your concurrence. We cannot however conclude this paragraph without saying that we approve of Mr. Luard's plan.

12. Having taken into our consideration, in the most comprehensive view, the present state of your affairs in India together with the relative exigencies and resources of the different Presidencies, according to the accounts which we have received of their estimated receipts and disbursements in the course of the current year, and having taken your commands for our guide in apportioning the unappropriated surplus of the Bengal revenues to the general relief of your several possessions we have resolved to remit between the 30th April 1785 and 1st May 1786:

To the Presidency of Bombay	...	...	35,00,000
To your Supracargoes at China	...	...	22,50,000
To Fort St. George	...	...	15,00,000
To Bencoolen	...	...	4,50,000
And to St. Helena	...	...	25,000
Making in all			Rupees 77,25,000

13. In consequence of the urgent solicitations from your Supercargoes at Canton for supplies from this place, and our conviction of the necessity of sending as large an amount as our means will admit in order to enable them to load all your ships, we issued an advertisement on the 14th April inviting proposals for the payment of money in China in the course of the present season. This advertisement was transmitted to, and also issued at the other Presidencies, but we are sorry to inform you it did not meet with success.

14. On the arrival of your orders of the 9th and 10th December we resolved to make a second attempt, and accordingly renewed our advertisement. Several tenders were made, but none appearing likely to answer the purpose of an immediate or indeed certain remittance we did not think it adviseable to accept any of them, the terms that could have procured the wished for relief being extremely disadvantageous. Thus circumstanced we have been obliged to relinquish our wishes of affording your Supracargoes a seasonable supply, as the state of our finances and the advanced season will not admit of our dispatching treasure, the only certain mode of effecting it at this period, we have however desired [them] to draw upon us to the extent of ten or fifteen lacs of rupees, which we shall consider as part of their supplies for the season of 1786/7. And we have engaged that such bills shall be paid in preference to any other demands on our treasury, it being our most anxious wish to relieve your Honourable Court as much as possible from the payment of drafts upon you from China.

15. In our letter of the 23rd April, paragraphs 12 and 13, we acquainted you with our resolutions of the 21st of that month, respecting the sum to be allotted for the investment of 1785/6, and the mode of providing it which we had resolved on in conformity to your express commands.

Consultation 21st April.

16. These resolutions were, in a letter under date the 25th April, communicated to the Board of Trade, with a desire that they would adopt such measures as they thought necessary for carrying our resolutions into immediate effect.

Consultation 21st April.

17. In reply to our letter the Board of Trade represented the inconveniences that would follow, were your orders for advertising for proposals carried into execution at that period, that it would be unjust to the present contractors as they had only four months before received their advances for the investment of 1784/5, that they were very much alarmed at the idea of new men being introduced at the *aurrengs* to the prejudice of the old contractors, and apprehended that these contractors would, with their securities, protest against such a measure, and that the whole of their engagements must hereby be rendered very precarious.

Consultation 16th May.

18. At the same time the Board of Trade proposed that the sum which we had allotted, viz., forty five lacs of rupees, should not be considered as a supply for the investment of 1785/6 but as an "expedient augmentation to the investment of 1784/5". By which means the desirable end of commencing the succeeding investment of 1786/7, at the usual period, would be effected: and they urged, in support of these arguments, the justice which would be thereby done to the present contractors, and the certainty of insuring tonnage for your expected ships.

Consultation 16th May.

19. Taking into our most mature consideration the dangerous consequences that we had so much reason to apprehend from the representations of the Board of Trade, and confirmed at several conferences we had with their President, the disappointment which your Honourable Court would experience by a failure on the part of the contractors, and the great losses you must inevitably suffer by a want of cargoes for your expected ships, we agreed to suspend our final resolution on this subject until the arrival of the *Fox* packet, at that time hourly expected, as there might be new instructions from your Honourable Court on this head by that conveyance.

20. Soon after the arrival of the dispatches by the *Fox* we wrote to the Board of Trade, in reply to their letter recorded in the consultation of the 16th May, representing that we did not coincide in their ideas respecting the consequences which they apprehended from a literal compliance with your commands. As in our judgement the old contractors were the most

Consultation 20th June.

likely persons to give in proposals, and would certainly have an advantage over all others from local knowledge, and from possessing an experience and influence that new men could not immediately obtain, and consequently would be able to provide the investment on more reasonable terms.

21. We observed to the Board of Trade that these arguments were, in our opinion, unanswerable, and justified a repetition of our former resolutions for enforcing your commands; and that had we been only anxious to discharge our duty the line for our proceedings was clear. We wished however to act upon a more liberal principle of public duty. We felt the difficulties to which the Board of Trade might be subject, and were not only desirous of averting them but also of affording every aid in our power to promote the essential interest of our mutual employers.

22. But before we departed from our resolutions of the 25th April we were desirous of ascertaining, to a degree of certainty, the advantages which would result to the Company by our acceding, even in partial degree, to the wishes of the Board of Trade by adopting their plan, and therefore requested to be informed whether with an advance of thirty three lacs of rupees and the goods of former investments, not at present realized, they would be able to complete the loading of the seven ships which we expect in the course of the season, so that they might all be dispatched for England before the close of February next.

23. The replies of the Board of Trade to our letters are recorded in the consultations noted in the margin, and we beg leave to refer you to them. It will appear that they persisted in the same sentiments which they communicated to us in Consultations 11th and 18th July. September and October last, and were still apprehensive of the inconveniences they would labor under by the adoption of your commands, and again recommended that the advances should be considered as an augmentation of the investment of 1784/5, and that we would allow the contractors to keep possession of the *aurungs* till April 1786.

24. You have already been advised of the change which happened in the seasons for providing the investment, owing to the delay in issuing the advances, a delay which could not be avoided in the late situation of our resources. By this it appears that the virtual engagements which existed between the Board of Trade and their contractors did not actually commence till the 1st November, at which late period their contracts were dated and were to exist for one year from that day. We had therefore no option left us but that of allowing the present contractors to have an exclusive right to the possession of the *aurungs* until the fulfillment of their contracts.

25. This point being established it next became a consideration

whether the funds, with which the Board of Trade had been furnished, would be sufficient to afford cargoes for the seven expected ships.

26. They stated that the balance of the subscription investment of 1782/3, the balance of the investment of 1783/4 and the realization of the investment of 1784/5 (including indigo and saltpetre) made collectively the sum of rupees seventy six lacs ninety two thousand, six hundred and thirty eight. This amount at the rate of thirteen lacs for each ship would furnish more than five cargoes.

27. The advanced state of the season left us no alternative but the risk of a want of cargoes for some of your expected ships, and the prospect of a general confusion in the Commercial Department, of which the contractors would certainly avail themselves by non-performance of their engagements, and which if it did not create an inability for realizing the outstanding balances would afford but too forcible a plea against their realization. In a word we had to apprehend a total disappointment to your Honourable Court in your expected commercial returns, and were consequently compelled from necessity to accede to the urgent and reiterated recommendations of the Board of Trade. We therefore resolved to allot the sum of twenty five lacs for the augmentation which they proposed, and were obliged to assent to their recommendation of extending the investment of 1784/5 to the 1st May 1786.

28. An order on our treasury was accordingly issued in favor of the Board of Trade for the sum of rupees twenty five lacs, under the following express conditions:

1st That the Board of Trade do engage to have seven compleat cargoes ready before the 28th of February next.

2nd That the goods be provided as near as possible to the Company's list. And having resolved to allot the sum of forty five lacs for the next year's investment, viz., 1786/7 in conformity to your report to the Honourable House of Commons, we as a third condition stipulated with the Board of Trade that they would advise all the contractors that your orders will be literally obeyed for providing the investment of 1786/7, and that an advertisement will be issued on the 1st of November next, for sealed proposals to be received, according to your instructions on or before the 1st of March following; we trust that these measures will meet your entire approbation.

29. We beg leave to call your particular attention to the letters from Mr. Barton, recorded in the consultations noted in the margin, on the subject of his right to a seat at our Board, in consequence of the accidental absence, by a dangerous illness, of the Honourable Mr. Stuart, and in virtue of the 27th clause of the Act of Parliament of the 24th of His Present Majesty's, wherein it is enacted "that in case of death or absence by reason of sickness, or otherwise for fourteen days the Council should be reduced to two, including the Governor General or President of such



Council the person who shall stand senior in such provisional appointment as is thereinbefore mentioned, or in case there shall be no such appointment then the senior civil servant of the said Company upon the spot shall be called to such Council etc., etc." The Honourable Mr. Stuart was present at Council on the 13th May, and was summoned for Monday the 16th but being indisposed did not attend. Between the 16th and 31st several meetings of the Council were held at which Mr. Stuart, though duly summoned, was not present. And we should have passed a resolution as a matter of course on the 31st May to call in the senior civil servant, according to the provision of the Act, if Mr. Stuart had not addressed a letter to our Secretary representing that however anxious he was to prevent the many inconveniences which must arise to some of the principal departments under Government from his being absent from Council longer than the time specified in the Act, yet he feared it would be impossible for him to attend at our meeting without risking the danger of a relapse, but at the same time thought himself sufficiently well to attend to the common current business, and hoped we would not deem it unreasonable in him to request that the meeting might be held at his house as had been the practice on similar occasions.

30. This letter was circulated on its receipt, and the attendance of the Advocate General required in Council on the following day at our meeting. The Governor General reported that Mr. Barton, the senior civil servant and next to Mr. Stuart, had called upon him and informed him that he understood Mr. Stuart's illness would prevent him from attending Council, and that fourteen days having elapsed since he was last able to attend he (Mr. Barton) expected to be summoned to Council, agreeably to the provision of the 27th clause of the Act of Parliament.

31. This being the first instance in which a difficulty had occurred, and wishing to abide not only by the spirit but the letter of the regulations of the late Act, the Governor General submitted to the Board whether in the present case we should not take the opinion of the Advocate General on the following question, viz., "whether a compliance with the request contained in Mr. Stuart's letter can be considered as an infraction or evasion of the late Act of Parliament".

32. This question was accordingly put to your Advocate General, but as he thought the matter referred to him too important for an hasty and unconsidered opinion, he requested a short time for deliberation, and promised to send to our Secretary the next morning his sentiments upon the subject; we therefore adjourned until the opinion of the Advocate General should be received.

33. On the evening of the 1st of June the Advocate General's opinion was received, immediately circulated to all the members and returned with a minute from Mr. Stuart, declaring that his indisposition was by no means such as to prevent his attending to public business. On the contrary had the Board thought it improper to comply with his request for

Consultation 2nd June.

holding a council at his house he had determined and was prepared to meet us at the Council House.

34. In the consultation noted in the margin the letter from Mr. Barton, quoted at the commencement of this subject, is recorded. This letter although dated the 31st May was only received on the 1st June and circulated on that day.

Consultation 2nd June.

35. After considering Mr. Barton's address of the 31st May and after paying every attention to the letter from Mr. Stuart, of the same date, and his minute sent in circulation in consequence of the Advocate General's opinion on the question referred to him, we agreed to comply with Mr. Stuart's request, and accordingly adjourned from the Council Room to hold a council at his house.

36. Our inducements to this resolution were founded on the declaration of Mr. Stables, that he thought Mr. Stuart able to attend to public business, having sat with him that morning for above half an hour, and the certainty that he (Mr. Stuart) would make an effort to come to the Council House which might be attended with bad consequences by a relapse or return of his disorder.

37. Such are the circumstances attending Mr. Barton's claim. The novelty of the case and our anxious desire, while we complied with the requisition of the Statute, to pay due regard also to the respective applications of the parties interested in the event created a necessity for our resorting to legal advice, which occasioned a short but unavoidable delay in our decision.

38. We trust on a minute investigation of all the correspondence on this subject that our conduct in this discussion has been perfectly regular, and impartially just towards Mr. Barton, we submit it to your decision in full confidence that it will meet your approbation, for had we acted otherwise than we did we should have acted irregularly, as the first Council day on which Mr. Stuart was actually absent was Monday, the 16th May; from that date and not from the day he attended in Council the period of his absence must surely be calculated.

39. At the request of Mr. Barton we send you complete copies of all the papers and proceedings, upon this subject, numbers in the packet.

40. The accompanying additional claims from Mr. Barton with the Advocate General's opinion thereon were received by Messieurs Stables and Stuart during a late indisposition of the Honourable the Governor General. They are recorded in the consultation noted in the margin, and go numbers in the packet for your information.

Consultation 16th July.

41. It is proper in this place to inform you that on Monday the 20th

June we met in this Department. From that period to the beginning of July the Governor General and the members of administration were so occupied with the important business of reform, the adjustment of new regulations and the other objects of the present dispatch that no regular meeting of Council, in this Department, was summoned till the 4th of July, on which day the Governor General was seized with a violent fever that confined him to his bed till the 15th or 16th of the same month, but in the intermediate time, viz., on Sunday the 10th July the Governor General wrote a letter to Mr. Stables, requesting that he and Mr. Stuart would meet in Council and carry on the public business, which they accordingly did. The Governor General having recovered from this indisposition presided in Council on the 18th July.

42. A memorial from Mr. James Grant, one of your senior merchants on this establishment, goes a number in the packet. The sufferings of this gentleman, so strongly set forth in his memorial, compel us to recommend his case to your particular consideration, that he may receive the reparation he solicits in being restored to that rank of which he has been deprived.

43. Mr. William Atkinson having found the labors of his office as Deputy Commissary General too fatiguing for his constitution and present state of health solicited and obtained our permission to retire upon the pension allotted to such of your covenanted servants as are unemployed.

44. Mr. Boddam has sent in a remonstrance against his removal to the Presidency of Bombay, notified in the 42nd paragraph of your General Letter of 9th December 1784, and requested our permission to continue him on this establishment until your further pleasure should be known. We have therefore allowed him to remain in Bengal till your final orders on this subject shall be received.

45. We are sorry to acquaint you with the death of Mr. James Hunter, a Surgeon on this establishment. He has been succeeded in his station at Dacca by Mr. James Stark, the Senior Surgeon, of a considerable number who applied for this appointment.

46. It is with much concern we also report to you the decease of Doctor Koenig<sup>1</sup> who died in the prosecution of his botanical researches at Samuelcotah on the coast of Coromandel. We apprehend his loss is much to be lamented as we have little doubt, if he had lived, that his researches would have been crowned with extensive and useful discoveries.

47. The widow of Mr. Harrison, late a Surgeon on this establishment, having applied for the benefit of the Pension and produced proofs of her qualification and title has been admitted thereto, and this allowance will be paid to her monthly

by the Military Paymaster General as she is a native of this country and, we understand, intends to remain here.

48. The loss of our dispatches, by the *Hinchinbrooke*, will have retarded your receipt of several memorials from the assistant surgeons who were dismissed in conformity to your orders of Consultation 21st 16th March 1784. Duplicates are conveyed by this March. packet. We beg leave to call your attention to the paragraphs of our letter of 23rd March 1785 respecting them, and to assure you, in addition thereto, that we feel ourselves exceedingly interested in their behalf from the earnest solicitations that we have received from all ranks of officers of the different detachments they served in, and the extreme distress to which your orders have reduced them.

49. In consequence of several representations from your Chief Engineer of the decayed and dangerous state of the draw-bridges before the St. Georges Royal, and water gateways in the new Fort Consultation 7th March. we authorized him to make the necessary repairs to them, previously receiving his estimate of the expence which would be incurred, and strictly enjoining him not to exceed it. This mode we have thought proper to adopt as a general rule whenever temporary works are required, and are convinced of the advantage it will be of in confining charges of a contingent nature to specific sums, and all within our knowledge prior to their commencement. You have already been informed of the disposal of a great quantity of the stores which had been deposited in Fort William during the war, excepting the grain in the new *golahs*. This article we thought proper to reserve till lately for the purpose of completing the experiment that was proposed as the principal reason for its being laid up; and we are now happy to acquaint you that when the *golahs* were opened the grain deposited in them appeared in perfect condition and sold well. A small quantity is still kept for further trial, though we can have no doubt that rice may be preserved many years when the air is not suffered to get to it.

51. The general reduction which we have made in the emoluments of all ranks of your servants, as will appear by our proceedings in the Secret Department of Inspection, rendered it necessary to adopt some mode of lessening the high Consultation 14th February. price of almost every necessary of life in this settlement. The best means of effecting this end we conceived to be by facilitating the approach of the various articles of consumption, in opening or improving the avenues to this extensive and increasing city. With that object solely in view we have already authorized the rupees [repairs?] of the Baraset Road. The expence must be considered trifling when the real and permanent benefits are placed in the opposite scale. We have already experienced them in some degree, and doubt not of their daily increase.

52. Our consultations noted in the margin will point out to you Captain Ranken's report of the final completion of the new road from



Consultations 12th  
January and 2nd  
May.

Chunar Ghur to Calcutta. Though the general accounts and our belief of the advantages attending this road are strongly impressed on our minds, we did not consider ourselves sufficiently entitled to recommend the constructor to your Honourable Court, in order to obtain the compensation, for his trouble and exertions, which this Government had promised to allow him, untill experiments had been made both in respect to the speedy conveyance of letters and the easy march of your troops. We have now however the pleasure to acquaint you that the trial of some months has fully evinced its utility. The dawks pass with greater rapidity throughout the provinces, at a reduced rate, and your troops effect their marches with facility and without any impediment, as will appear by numbers of this packet.

53. Under these circumstances we think it but justice due to Captain Ranken to recommend his claim to your favourable consideration, and to express our hopes that it will be admitted. We have positively directed that the annual expence of repairs shall not exceed the amount allowed in your letter, under date 12th July 1782, viz., 16,000 rupees or 40 rupees per mille.

54. Since the close of our dispatches by the *Hinchinbrooke* the following gentlemen, belonging to your military establishment, have obtained our permission to retire either wholly or for a certain time from your service, as specified against their respective names, the prescribed oath having been previously taken.

For three years upon full pay (but no allowances) to be  
received in Bengal

Consultations	
4th April.	Lieutenant Firework[er] George Bie
11th do.	Lieutenant Hiram Cox
20th June.	Captain Lieutenant Sampson
	Without pay or allowances
25th April.	Lieutenant Baillie
27th May.	Lieutenant Harvey
20th June.	Lieutenant Vernon

55. Your orders respecting the character and conduct of all your servants who may return to Europe we have conformed to (as precisely as the nature of the cases would admit of) in all our former dispatches. In the civil line, which is under our immediate inspection, we are always able to acquaint you of the merits or demerits of your servants, but as individuals in the military are spread over all parts of the country, and instances very often occur of officers not appearing at the Presidency during the residence of the members of your Government we are in this line compelled generally to refer you to the letters from your Commander in Chief (through whom all military addresses are received) for his opinion and recommendation, unless particular instances appear from long services,

superior rank or distinguished merits within the scope of our own observation.

56. The pointed interference of Major General Stibbert and our own knowledge of the hardships, length of service and real merits of Major Erskine impelled us, in a late instance, to deviate from the strict letter of your orders in promoting him, then the eldest major on this establishment, to the rank of lieutenant colonel, a distinction which we were the more inclined to confer upon him, as a reservation of any increase of pay or allowance on that account was positively made until regular succession should bring him within the established number. Our proceedings, noted in the margin, will more particularly explain this point, and we hope satisfy you of the propriety of conferring this favor on so able and deserving an officer.

Consultation 4th  
April.

57. We beg leave to refer to your attentive consideration a letter addressed to us by a number of lieutenants on this establishment, who were appointed cadets in the year 1772, the only remaining officers of that length of service who have not yet obtained the rank of captain. We conceived ourselves restricted by your orders from complying with the prayer of their address, even though additional allowances were not expected until they become entitled to such by regular promotion. We were, however, fully sensible of the hardship and singularity of the case and promised to recommend it, as we now do, in the strongest manner to your notice.

58. Lieutenants Lucadox and Hunter and Ensign Purefoy who were proceeding to Europe in the *Hinchinbrooke*, as noticed in our letter by that ship, having lost the whole of their property by the unfortunate accident that happened to the ship at the entrance of the river, solicited and obtained their reinstatement to your service, until some future opportunity should offer to enable them to avail themselves of our former indulgence, an act of humanity which we are confident you will approve.

Consultations 25th  
April.  
20th June.

59. In consequence of an address from Captain Church who commanded the King's troops, which were returning to Europe by the same conveyance, representing the extreme distress to which they were reduced by the loss of all their property, and being convinced of their sufferings we directed their pay and allowances to recommence from the 1st of April last, admitting the six months that had been advanced for the passage as a loss to be sustained by Government. An application for some further compensation was afterwards brought forward which we thought proper to reject.

Consultation 25th  
April.

60. In our proceedings noted in the margin you will observe a representation from Lieutenant Thomas (who had been ordered down the river to apprehend deserters) complaining of the disinclination of Captain Maxwell, of the *Hinchinbrooke*, to deliver up some men who he had discovered on board. We do not wish to add to the number of Captain Maxwell's misfortunes by the addition of your displeasure for his behaviour upon this occasion, but we have experienced the same conduct so often

that we are convinced of the necessity of your laying some heavy fine upon such commanders of your ships as may be detected in receiving any of the Company's soldiers who desert to them, or who may be decoyed from your service, and of your issuing the most positive prohibitory orders on this subject, to impress them with the firmest conviction that not only the secreting of deserters from your settlements but even the connivance at their escape will subject them to the severest penalties. We need not point out to you the very heavy expence to which you are subjected in recruiting your European strength in this country, the consequent value of every individual soldier to your service and the loss which you sustain by desertions such as those we have described.

61. We are sorry to inform you that Ensign William Gwynne  
 Consultation 21st April. Vaughan has been dismissed your service by the regular sentence of a court martial, which has met with our approbation.

62. Mr. Thomas Martin, Judge Advocate General, having furnished  
 Consultation 11th July. us with complete copies and indices of all the court martial proceedings for the years 1780, 1781, 1782 and 1783 we forward them in the book packet by this dispatch.

The state of treasuries this day is as follows, viz.,

Ready money

General Treasury	...	...	73,713	6	4	
Khalsah	...	...	41,103	13	1	
						1,14,817 3 5

Bills receivable

General Treasury

Sicca rupees	10,05,199	14	0	11,66,031	13	11
Khalsah do.	84,179	18	1	97,648	2	3

12,63,680 0 2

Mint

Khalsah

Sicca rupees	7,190	5	0	8,340	12	3
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Unsorted treasure

Khalsah

from Burdwan	4,086	1	0			
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Valued at 10 per cent better than

current rupees	4,494	10	9			
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Balance account deposits ... 9,12,531 14 10

Do. Accountant General to the  
 Mayor's Court ... 1,16,918 3 3

Do. of the old bonded debt on  
 which the interest has ceased  
 by public advertisement ... 45,117 0 8

New bonded debt at 8 per cent ... 1,57,28,836 11 2

4 per cent remittance loan ... 8,56,840 0 0

1,76,60,243 13 11

Fort William,  
 the 1st of August 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1785

*Macartney's silence regarding the Court's letter of 10th March 1785.*

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th March, via Bussorah.

[2] On the 1st instant a copy of your letter to Fort St. George, under the same date, arrived here, was read in Council and the Honourable the Governor General immediately communicated its contents to the Right Honourable Lord Macartney.

[3] On the 3rd instant the letter to this Government being arrived was read at the Board, and on that day our Secretary communicated an authenticated copy thereof to Lord Macartney.

[4] His Lordship remained silent on the subject until the 13th instant when he transmitted to us, from the *Swallow* at Kedgerree, the letter of which the enclosed is a copy. This letter is recorded on the day of its receipt, viz., the 19th instant.

[5] We shall take an early opportunity of transmitting to you our observation on this event the present dispatch not being likely to arrive in England so soon as a sea conveyance.

Fort William,  
the 24th August 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

## LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1785

*A copy of Captain Forrest's charts and surveys to be sent to the Court—request of the President and members of the Board of Trade to be allowed a five per cent commission on the produce of the sales in England recommended—Calcutta Government's observations on Lord Macartney's letter—an appeal from Madras for payment of the money donated during famine in that Presidency—the Directors requested to obtain a security from Parliament against any prosecution which may be commenced against the Company in Indian Courts by their bond creditors—Mr. Bateman's conduct commended—reasons for making a provision for servants wishing to return to Europe for a limited period on account of ill-health—the*



*Surgeon General's complaint against irregular supply of medicines and surgical instruments—gentlemen of family not to be recruited as cadets—King's warrant to the Company's Commander in Chief for holding courts martial in the East Indies—leave to supernumerary officers to be granted without the oath of qualification—cantonments at Barrackpur enlarged—Government's contribution to the Orphan Fund—copies of Captain Kirkpatrick's Hindustani Grammar and Dictionary purchased.*

### PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. The last letters which we had the honor to write from this Department were under date the 1st and 24th of August, the former we dispatched per *Swallow*, the latter via Bussorah, duplicates whereof we beg leave to enclose.

2. In these letters we acknowledge the receipt of your commands of the 9th and 10th December 1784 and 10th March 1785. We have since received your advices of the 27th January and 11th April.

3. We were exceedingly concerned to find that some of the principal papers respecting the military accounts, intended to have been transmitted to your Honourable Court by the *Swallow*, were not prepared at the close of that ship's dispatches; we therefore ordered that the *Fox* should be got ready, with all possible expedition, to convey these papers with duplicates of the *Swallow's* dispatches, but receiving a report that the *Fox* required great repairs, which would create a considerable delay and thereby frustrate our intention, we resolved to employ on this service the *Intelligence*, one of your vessel of this establishment, which had been victualled and was ready for sea.

4. Mr. Clifton, Chief Mate of the *Fox*, being strongly recommended to us as a person whose abilities are well known to your Honourable Court we appointed him to the command of the *Intelligence*, vacant by the death of Captain Pennington.

5. Wishing to give you the earliest information upon the subject of your commands, just received, we postponed the dispatch of the *Intelligence* on purpose to acquaint you, by her, not only of our determination to carry your orders into immediate execution but to inform you of our progress in performing so important a part of our duty, the particulars of which, together with a reply to your Separate Letter of the 11th of April, will be transmitted to you from the Secret Department.

6. We have the pleasure to inform you that all your Bengal ships are safe arrived, viz.,

The <i>Francis</i> on the	...	3rd August	
<i>Rodney</i> ...	...	9th do.	
<i>King George</i>	...	19th do.	
<i>Dutton</i> ...	...	27th September	
<i>Montague</i> ...	...	3rd October	
<i>Deptford</i> ...	...	4th do.	and the
<i>Dublin</i> at Madras on the	20th ultimo.		

7. The *Winterton*, Captain Snow, having imported at Madras at a time which was thought too late, by that Presidency, to proceed on her destination this season was dispatched for Bengal, and arrived here on the 10th ultimo.

8. We mean to dispatch these ships in the following order:

The *Francis* and *Rodney* on the 21st November  
*King George* and *Dutton* on the 10th December  
*Montague* and *Deptford* on the 10th January and the  
*Dublin* within the period fixed by charterparty, viz., 10th March.

9. The President and Council at Fort St. George applied to us to order Captain Urmston in the *Francis* to touch there home-ward bound for the purpose of taking in such bales as they might receive from the north-ward, and to convey their dispatches to you; in this measure we readily acquiesced, and accordingly fixed on the day stipulated by charterparty to dispatch her, hoping in the mean time to ascertain the quantity of tonnage to be kept vacant. In a subsequent letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George, which we received on the 30th August, they request that Captain Urmston may be sent away in time to arrive there by the first of October; we accordingly desired the Board of Trade to load the ship as expeditiously as possible and directed Captain Urmston to prepare for sea. The respective answers to these orders will point out to you the cause of their not being carried into execution, we do not regret that it has so happened, as the *Francis* will escape all the dangers of the breaking up of the monsoon to which she must have been exposed, and the delay in your receipt of advices from that Presidency will be obviated by our ordering the *Intelligence* to call there.

10. In the consultation noted in the margin you will observe the report of Captain Thomas Forrest<sup>1</sup> of his last voyage. We shall transmit you copy of his charts and surveys as soon as they are prepared, and now have the pleasure to forward a list of maps, charts and surveys in the possession of our Surveyor General that your Honourable Court may point out such as you are desirous of having sent to Europe.

11. Previous to the receipt of your orders of 11th April accompany-

ing His Majesty's disallowance of the Bye Law, which had passed here for the registering of native seamen and lascars, we had, Consultation 30th August. in consequence of many inconveniences attending it, recommended its repeal to the Supreme Court of Judicature, and we are happy to inform you that their acquiescence in the measure had anticipated His Majesty's commands.

12. Our letter of the 1st of August apprized you that we had appropriated the sum of 25 lacs of current rupees as an increase to the investment of the season 1784/5, and that an order for this sum was accordingly issued on our treasury, since that period we have received a representation from the President and members of the Board of Trade urging the necessity of a further increase, as the produce of that sum, even admitting the deliveries of goods to be punctually forthcoming from the contractors, could not be wholly depended upon before the 30th April.

13. Taking this matter into our most serious consideration and ever desirous of extending your investment as much as our means can afford, as well to effect the early departure of your ships as to encrease the Honourable Company's resources in England, we come to the resolution of adding eight lacs more to our supplies, making the encreased amount allotted for the investment to be thirty three lacs of current rupees. By this measure we trust we shall be enabled to occupy all your Bengal tonnage this year, and that you will receive a reasonable increase to your remittance from India.

14. In our letter of the 15th July 1782, in which we communicated the substance of our plan for the provision of the subscription investment of 1782/3, we acquainted you in the following terms, Consultation 10th May. "that in order to secure to the Board of Trade a fair and honorable reward for their faithful and undeviating services, in the execution of the branch of duty assigned them, we had stipulated, as far as it was in our power to do, agreeably to an article of that effect in the plan that the President and members resident in Calcutta during the provision of that investment should, with your approbation, be allowed a commission of 5 per cent on the produce of the sales in England after the manner in which you gratify your supracargoes at Canton, to be divided in the proportions of their respective salaries." And accordingly in full confidence of obtaining your acquiescence in a promise which appeared to us so equitable a recompence for the steady and devoted attention of your senior servants to the interest of the Company, we earnestly requested you would approve of our intention and allow the commission to them, paying the amount of it to their respective agents in England in the proportions before mentioned.

15. Under date the 14th October 1783 the Board of Trade also addressed you, preferring a request to be allowed the same commission upon the amount of the succeeding investment of 1783/4.

16. Your pleasure in consequence having hitherto arrived, at the

instance of the Board of Trade, and from the sense we entertain of their exertions and diligence, which have been manifested in the success of your investment under the unusual difficulties with which the provision of it has been lately attended, we beg leave to submit to you our recommendation for your compliance with these requests as far as the Company's affairs will admit of, and we solicit the communication of your pleasure thereon by the earliest opportunity after your receipt of this address.

17. The situation of your senior servants, composing the Board of Trade, in relation to the inadequacy of their allowances to support the necessary expences attending their residence at the Presidency is deserving your most particular attention, and we beg leave to recommend it, as we now do, to you, and to call to recollection that it was not on a principle of favor to the Board of Trade but with a clear view of the ultimate interest of the Company that we resolved on these recommendations, we again assure you that we are confident these or similar allowances will encourage the members of the Board of Trade to attend to the provision of your investment unencumbered with other objects and essentially for your interests.

18. Having informed you in our letter of the 24th August, via Bussorah, that we should take an early opportunity of transmitting our observations upon the contents of a letter we received, in duplicate, from the Right Honourable Lord Macartney on his departure from this place, we now forward His Lordship's original letter, and beg your attention to the following resolutions which, after the most mature deliberation, we

came to on the 9th September, viz., "the Board taking  
 Consultation 9th September. into their consideration the letter which the Right Honourable Lord Macartney has been pleased to address to them, from on board the *Swallow* packet, on the 13th of August in reply to their official communication to His Lordship, on the 3rd of August, of the letter which they had received from the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated the 10th March 1785, have come to the following resolutions.

1st That the declaration in His Lordship's letter in the following words 'I have many reasons which I flatter myself will be satisfactory to the Court of Directors why I wish at present to decline taking upon me this Government' contains an avoidance and rejection for the present under His Lordship's hand of the succession to the Government General of Bengal to which His Lordship considered himself nominated and appointed by the letter from the Court of Directors of the 10th March 1785.

2nd That as the Board have not been informed by Lord Macartney so they cannot assign any certain cause why His Lordship's reasons for quitting India should be now stronger, as he declares them to be in his letter, than they were when in the middle of June last, long before the arrival of the late letters from England of the 10th March, and long before the arrival of Lieutenant General Sloper in Bengal, he expressed



his sentiments to Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Stables and informed them that even in case an appointment of him to the Government General should be sent out and be received here before his departure (an event however notwithstanding the public rumour) which he thought very improbable, considering the recent orders from home to the Government of Fort St. George, it was his intention not to remain in India.

3rd That, from whatever circumstances, His Lordship's original reasons for quitting India had acquired on the late occasion a greater force or influence on his conduct, still as those circumstances were not explained by His Lordship to the Board it only remained with them to follow the line which they have observed.

4th That after the Board had, without loss of time and officially, communicated to His Lordship the Company's letter of the 10th of March, and after the private knowledge which they had of His Lordship's intentions to quit India, the most respectful conduct which the Board could observe towards His Lordship was to wait silently for his final determination after he had maturely considered the letter from the Court of Directors of the 10th of March, nor do the Board imagine that their Honourable employers would approve of any unnecessary discussion of the letter of the 10th of March in Council".

19. It is proper to inform you, in this place, that Mr. Stables gave it as his opinion that there was no occasion for coming to any resolutions upon the subject of Lord Macartney's letter.

20. The Ministers and Church Wardens at Fort St. George have repeatedly applied to us for payment of the sum of 50,000 *sicca* rupees, which we subscribed during the height of the war for the maintenance and support of the distressed inhabitants of that Residency, laboring under the dreadful calamity of famine. When the circumstances of the wretched situation of these people were first made known to us and represented in a light requiring instant attention we felt the necessity of contributing as much as possible to their relief, and as an encouragement to individuals to subscribe the sum abovementioned was put down in the Company's name; but private contributions to so laudable a purpose shortly exceeded our expectations, these being remitted, as proper opportunities offered, by our Secretary in the manner desired by the Minister and Church Wardens, seemed to render any further aid on our part unnecessary, besides the free tonnage which we gave for 500 bags of rice in each of your ships sent there, and our funds were so exhausted and our exigencies for the public service so great that we had it not in our power, at that time, to make such an extra disbursement for what appeared only a secondary object. The distress of the poor at Madras afterwards subsiding it was not till the 24th February 1784 that the Minister and Church Wardens addressed us, requesting that the subscription on the part of the Company should be paid. Such a payment not appearing there

[...] August.

[...] October 1782.

19th April 1784.

7th October 1782.

so immediately pressing as the fam[ine] no longer existed, we left this point for future consideration. The Minister and Church  
 [...] October 1784. Wardens however having again urged the matter, and made a further application for payment in small bonds, we resolved to submit it to your decision, and accordingly acquainted them that we  
 [...] September 1782. should refer the whole to your consideration which  
 [...] October 1782. we now do, and beg to be honored with your instruc-  
 [...] April 1784. tions thereon. The consultations noted in the margin  
 [...] October 1784. contain everything that has passed on this subject.

21. You have been already advised of the extent of our supplies to the other Presidencies for this year; these we trust you will deem most ample when you take into consideration the situation of our resources and the accumulated debt of this Government. Our remittances to Fort St. George have not yet been so extensive as we could wish, as the period for our heavy collection is not arrived, but exclusive of having accepted bills to the amount of 3,54,431-11-8 we have lately remitted in specie, the sum of current rupees 2,00,000, by His Majesty's sloop *Cygnat*, under the command of Captain Taylor who was ordered here by Commodore Hughes, at our instance, for the express purpose of conveying treasure to Fort St. George.

22. By the 14th paragraph of our letter of the 1st August you will perceive that we had anticipated the orders contained in the 58th paragraph of your General Letter of the 11th April 1785, respecting supplies for your China investment. We now beg leave to acquaint you that we have applied to Commodore Hughes to return His Majesty's sloop *Cygnat* from Fort St. George for the purpose of conveying to your supercargoes, in specie, such part of the allotted supply for this year as our immediate exigencies will admit. The state of our treasury and the scarcity of money in circulation prevent the appropriation of a large amount, but we have no doubt that even a small sum will prove a seasonable relief by keeping up the Honourable Company's credit, and by impressing the most favorable ideas on the minds of the merchants, who placing the present effort (at this advanced season) in a proper light will readily give way to the expectation of larger and more regular supplies in consequence of the general peace and tranquil state of your possessions all over India.

23. It is well known that every importation of specie at Canton that is consigned to your supercargoes is magnified by the native merchants and must therefore produce a powerful effect in favor of your credit with them.

24. As soon as the season opens for sending dispatches to Fort Marlborough we shall take the first opportunity of carrying into execution your commands of the 11th April respecting that settlement, we have already accepted bills drawn by the Council there, since the 30th April last, to the extent of Spanish dollars 1,14,289 or current rupees 2,42,864-0-0.

25. The President and Council of Bombay have already received

for drafts, which they have drawn upon us	Current rupees	...	7,00,000
And we have remitted to them	...	...	1,23,000
Making in all current rupees			8,23,000

26. These supplies, the arrears due to your army, the advances to the Board of Trade for your investment and the number of drafts from Fort St. George, which yet remain undischarged although incurred during the war, will we fear be greater than our resources can answer, notwithstanding the extensive savings in your establishment which we had effected previous to the receipt of those ordered by your Honourable Court in your letter of the 11th April.

27. With regard to the Company's bond debt we beg leave to observe, in reply to paragraphs 80th, 81st and 82nd of the General Letter of the 11th April, that a proposition had previously been suggested by the Governor General, approved by the Board and recommended to your consideration and adoption from the Secret Department under date the 29th April.

28. It is proper we should here inform you that all the supplies which this Government can possibly afford for the relief of Bombay are granted to that Presidency, but the application of them is left to their Government. We believe the system at that Presidency has been, from their necessities, to grant new bonds annually including the interest of the year to the bond holders. The transfer of a debt accumulated in that manner to this Presidency would, we are persuaded, prejudice the Company's credit in these provinces without affording any essential relief to the bond holders of Bombay. We understand that the most pressing demands of the Bombay Presidency, at present, are for the liquidation of their military arrears, a subject which requires and which will have the first attention of this Government.

29. From some circumstances lately agitated in this country we think it necessary to recommend it to you to apply to Parliament for a security against any prosecutions which may be commenced against the Company, in the courts of law here, by their bond creditors or bill holders. For though we place every confidence in the good disposition and wisdom of the present judges of the Supreme Court of Justice, and though we possess the means of proceeding with just severity against any individual who might attempt to prosecute the Company for debts which could not be discharged but in a general and equal proportion, yet upon the same principles that the Company found it necessary at home to secure their credit against bills drawn from this country unauthorized by them, or against demands for the payment of the Company's bonded debts from India, we earnestly recommend it to you to obtain legal restrictions, to a certain degree, against a process or decree in the Courts of Justice in India in favor of bond or bill creditors who might attempt to obtain

partial payment of their debt at law, and at times when the Company's treasury cannot discharge the arrears due to their bond and bill creditors.

30. You will readily conceive the nature and extent of the evil to be provided against, and may easily inform yourselves of the remedy to prevent it without any unnecessary violation or obstruction to the due course of private or public justice.

31. Your disapprobation of our having allowed the servants of the Company appointed to reversionary stations in the Board of Trade to draw the salaries they would be entitled to were they members of that Board in being nominally applied to Mr. Nathaniel Bateman has raised this gentleman's apprehensions that your minds may still retain an impression unfavorable to him from the transaction for which, in your displeasure, you issued your commands concerning him of the 30th January 1785.

32. Under these circumstances we are induced, from the favorable opinion we have of Mr. Bateman, to afford him our good offices [offices] with your Honourable Court towards removing this impression, and in this view beg leave to mention the following circumstances in his case as deserving your consideration.

33. The suspension of this gentleman (being at the time a member of the Board of Trade) took place in 1778 upon the grounds of an offence in 1772, from which time until the year 1778 Mr. Bateman filled two stations of responsibility in your service, the Revenue Chiefship of Chittagong and Commercial Chiefship of Luckipore, and acquitted himself in both to the satisfaction of his superiors. His attention to your investment in the latter station, which he held at the time of the arrival of your orders for his suspension, is described in the address to your Honourable Court from the Board of Trade, per *Osterly*, of the 28th November 1778 with much commendation.

34. And we beg leave to add that the records of the Board of Trade point out to you the conduct of Mr. Bateman, since his re-admission to that Board, as uniformly proper and meritorious and consistent with his duty as a Company's servant.

35. We therefore hope that his suspension from your service, and sufferings in consequence, may be considered as a sufficient atonement for such part of his conduct as may have been reprehensible, and beg leave to unite our solicitation with the instances of the Board of Trade that you may be pleased to remove the bar to his holding a Chiefship, and restore him to that degree of confidence and favor which on similar occasions you are accustomed to extend to the gentlemen of your service.

36. In the 44th paragraph of our letter under date the 1st ultimo, per *Swallow*, we informed you that Mr. Boddam had sent in a remonstrance



Consultations  
20th June.  
11th July.  
15th September.

against his removal from Bengal to Bombay, he has again addressed us on this subject. And we have received a letter from the Honourable the President and Council of Bombay respecting it. These letters are recorded in the consultations noted in the margin, and we have admitted both Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Boddam upon this establishment, until your pleasure regarding them shall be known.

37. Messrs. John Stonehouse and R. T. Ives, of your civil servants, obtained our permission to proceed to sea for the re-establishment of their health, and for that purpose proceeded to Bombay and the Cape of Good Hope; as they did not recover their health at either of these places they requested our leave to go to England upon the allowance granted by our resolutions of the 27th January 1785. As certificates of the actual necessity of such steps were before us we readily acquiesced in their wishes.

Consultations 30th  
August and 30th Sep-  
tember.

38. Mr. John Neave has also obtained our leave of absence for three years, agreeably to the resolutions above quoted, and embarks for England on the *Intelligence*.

Consultation 9th  
September.

39. The Board of Trade having allowed Mr. Henry Taylor, under their Department, to proceed to sea, upon the *Cygnets* sloop of war, for the recovery of his health applied to us to grant him our permission in case he should not find the benefit he expected on this side [of] the Cape of Good Hope, and should be under the necessity of trying his native air, to proceed to England on leave of absence for three years, with the half pay annexed to his rank, payable here according to our late regulations. We agreed to grant him this indulgence, and shall duly notify to you his resignation for that purpose if he should be reduced to such necessity.

40. Considering the great distress and embarrassments of your finances at home and abroad you will probably, at first sight, disapprove of the provision which, on the 27th January, we resolved to make for those servants who, from ill health or other circumstances, wished to return for a time to Europe, but if you will please to consider that one of the great sources of the extraordinary expence of this Government has arisen from the number of supernumerary servants of high rank, who neither can be employed or provided for according [to] their pretensions in this country, you will soon discover that the departure of every servant in such a predicament is a relief to this Government, and that the allowance granted to them, and which serves as an inducement for their return to Europe, is granted upon the true principles of public economy.

41. Formerly when your servants rose to the ranks of junior and senior merchants, and when your civil establishment did not exceed 100 or 120 and comparatively but few of them of high rank, offices

suited to the pretensions of all your servants could be granted them; at present your civil establishment consists of 260, of whom 150 are senior and junior merchants and sixty factors.

42. This establishment does not afford employment and proper situations to so great a number, yet you will please to remember that the resolution against sending out more junior servants cannot, for a considerable time, relieve your establishment in the higher departments of supernumerary servants, whose expectations of a proper provision must certainly rise with the period of their service, while the regulations lately established by law, and the reforms and reductions rendered absolutely necessary from the Company's distress frustrate their expectations; many of your servants standing in this predicament must naturally wish to visit their native country, and the pension allowed them during their absence is but a small sum and much more easily defrayed than the expences which would arise from their staying in this country, and which would in the end fall in some shape or other upon these provinces.

43. We have permitted Sir John Day, your Advocate General, to return to Europe for the re-establishment of his health and for the adjustment of his private concerns, his application included a request to be allowed the whole or part of his salary while absent.

Consultation 30th  
September.

This we did not deem ourselves authorized to grant as the duties of Advocate General must be executed by your senior law officer on this establishment, who is certainly entitled to the rewards appertaining to that station. We understand Sir John Day means to take his passage for England on a Danish ship.

44. In addition to our former recommendations of Sir John Day we beg leave here to subjoin our sense of his merits and services, and our full approbation of his conduct upon all occasions on which his zeal and abilities could be exerted in favor of the Company's interests.

45. Agreeably to the 52nd clause of the late Act of Parliament our several collectors etc., dispersed through these provinces, were called down to the Presidency for the purpose of taking the oath prescribed by that statute. We are concerned to inform you that the expence incurred thereby has been enormous, nor could we check it. In this place we particularly allude to the attornie's bills for the expence of taking the oaths of the different collectors before the Judges of the Supreme Court: these bills being regularly taxed by a Master in Chancery, whose signature, we understand, in every instance gives sanction to charges of this nature. We forward copies of the bills for your inspection and to enable you to obtain advice upon them, if you agree in opinion with us that the exorbitancy of the demand requires investigation and future control.

46. Mr. Bushby, who officiated as our Secretary in the late Inspection Department, being furnished with the 27th paragraph of your letter of 9th December 1784 respecting the non-transmission of the proceedings in that Department to Your Honourable Court since the year 1780 has

addressed a letter to us, copy of which is forwarded a number in this packet. And we beg leave to inform you that the proceedings alluded to are now in some forwardness under the management of the Secretary to the late Committee of Accounts, and shall be transmitted by one of your ships of this season.

47. The boxes of paper for certificates and bills of exchange, which are so particularly noticed in your Secretary's letter of 27th January 1785, are delivered on their arrival to our Agent for Stationary; and your injunctions have been notified to him and to our Sub Accountant, the officer [who] prepares the bills. We doubt not but your precautions will have the desired effect, and hope that you will approve of our having authorized the certificates etc., to be printed on this paper, which will make it unnecessary for it to pass through many hands, and guard against accidents in copying.

Consultation 30th  
August.

48. Mr. George Gardner having applied to us for a new set of bills in exchange for a set granted him on the 18th November 1783 in favor of Mr. Robert Brocklesly, which he represents have been refused acceptance as a syllable had been omitted in his name, we have agreed to comply with his request, on security being given that payment of the second set shall not be demanded, in case, upon a reconsideration of the circumstance, you may have accepted the original bills; we have therefore directed the error for which they are exchanged to be specified in the bills, as will appear on their presentation.

Consultation 15th  
September.

49. The Sub Treasurer having applied for our sanction to grant Mr. Moubray a duplicate certificate for current rupees 2550, the original being lost, we have allowed this to be done on Mr. Moubray's giving security to indemnify the Honourable Company should the original make its appearance.

50. Our Surgeon General having furnished us with a report of the casualties in the list of surgeons on this establishment, since the admission of the twenty two assistant surgeons, whom your Honourable Court had been pleased to nominate to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the removal of the assistant surgeons admitted here during the war, we found the list of casualties so great as to leave us an opening to adopt some measure for the relief of the removed assistant surgeons in the spirit of your orders, contained in the 12th paragraph of your letter of 16th March 1784.

Consultation 24th  
August.

51. When you consider the very distressing predicament to which these gentlemen were reduced, the patience with which they submitted to your orders though many of them had served faithfully and ably with your armies in the Carnatic and in the west of India, that they relinquished former views in life for the purpose of entering into your employ, to which they were appointed by us at a time when your establishment of surgeons was so small and the urgency of your service so great as to

require even more than were appointed, and that your own orders gave them general leave to remain in India and to be taken back into the service as vacancies arose, we are convinced you will approve of the measure which we have adopted.

52. We have received a letter from the Surgeon General stating the inconvenience to which he is subject from your not complying with his indents for medicines and chirurgical instruments  
 Surgeons [...] in the fullest extent; the impossibility of return-  
 30th August. ing the latter to be repaired in Europe is clearly stated. And as the welfare of the settlement at large is interested in this point we hope that our recommendation of particular attention to the regular and ample supplies of these articles will meet with your favorable notice.

53. Our proceedings noted in the margin will have apprized you of our having allowed Captain Peter Murray who had long officiated as Adjutant General, under General Stibbert, to draw the  
 21st June 1784. allowances attached to that office by Sir Eyre Coote's regulations in 1779, and to continue to execute the duties appertaining to it. But we avoided confirming this appointment until the arrival of a new Commander in Chief of India, who might think the office of Adjutant General, upon this establishment, particularly connected with his command.

54. Soon after the arrival of Lieutenant General Sloper Major General Stibbert addressed a letter to him, strongly recommending the confirmation of Captain Murray in the office of Adjutant General, whom he considered as an officer of experience and qualifications, peculiarly adopted to the discharge of the extensive duties of that appointment, this recommendation your Commander in Chief was pleased to approve and support, and as General Stibbert had, previous to the arrival of General Sloper, repeatedly solicited our confirmation of Captain Murray's appointment of Adjutant General we readily conceived in his wishes.

55. In the subordinate Presidencies the officer holding the post of Adjutant General possesses a commission granting him the nominal rank or appellation of lieutenant colonel, and as this honorary mark of distinction is certainly more applicable to the officer who officiates immediately under the Commander in Chief of India we request you will be pleased to empower us to confer a brevet rank of lieutenant colonel, for the time being, upon the person holding the office of Adjutant General under this establishment.

56. We beg leave to call your particular attention to a letter, from a committee of officers, addressed to the Right Honourable Board of Controul, and accompanying copy of a letter written  
 Consultation 27th to the Right Honourable Lord North, when Secretary  
 September. of State, also a petition to your Honourable Court which were forwarded by the *Nerbudda* packet in 1783.



57. The object of this application was fully discussed and recommended with much earnestness to your serious attention and support in our letter of 23rd October 1783, paragraph 191. The grievance then complained of by your officers appears to them more severe from its continuance, and their anxiety for its removal becomes daily more powerful, and is a source of deep uneasiness to your army; we renew our recommendation of this subject to your most serious attention, in order that it may be adjusted to the mutual satisfaction, and produce the chearfull co-operation of the officers of both services, which in fact can only be considered as one, the service of Great Britain in India.

58. In the lists of recruits, brought out by your ships of this season, we observe that many of these recruits are marked in the return as gentlemen, and the respectable recommendations which some of them have produced leave us no doubt of the fact though we feel ourselves infinitely embarrassed at it. Independent of the Act of Parliament your orders are too positive, with respect to the appointment of cadets in India, to leave us an option, nor indeed will your establishment admit of an increase of either officers or cadets. The idea of gentlemen of family and education being reduced to the situation of serving as soldiers in this country is truly mortifying. If they have been inveighed away from their friends under the influence of plausible representations, and thereby induced to embark in your employ unknowing to what misery they were destined, the persons who are employed on your recruiting service and who deluded them are highly reprehensible, and deserve your severest censure.

59. After a due consideration of these circumstances we hope that you will, in future, direct the persons you may employ in procuring recruits to be particularly cautious in ascertaining what people they enlist for your service, and ever avoid the admission of those who may answer the description above stated, as by it, independant of all other considerations, your European force is not benefitted and a number of persons are thrown upon this settlement who must in some shape be provided for.

60. Your Commander in Chief having produced to us His Majesty's warrant for holding and assembling courts martial in the East Indies we were immediately led to reconsider the resolutions which we had passed on this subject on the 27th of December last, and which we had communicated to you, in the most pointed terms, in the 22nd and 23rd paragraphs of our letter under date 17th January per *Valentine*. The consideration that the new Statute had not invested this Government with special powers or deprived the Commander in Chief of those which his predecessors enjoyed, which is also evinced by His Majesty's warrant since granted, had its due weight and influence with us, though our observations above alluded to could not at that period have reached you yet questions of a similar nature, which must have arisen during your consideration of the disputes at Fort St. George, would have drawn your attention as well as that of the Legislature to the legal military powers wished for by this Government. As no special provision was made for those powers in the new Act we were induced, for the present, to suspend the resolutions we

had formed on this point, and agreed unanimously to consider it legal for Lieutenant General Sloper to exercise the power of ordering, approving or disapproving of all general courts martial, while any of His Majesty's troops are serving under his command in Bengal; we accordingly directed that all courts martial, then sitting, whose proceedings were not actually closed should be forthwith dissolved.

61. Major Thomas Adderly has been dismissed your service agreeably to the sentence of a court martial approved by your Commander in Chief.

62. In order to encourage the supernumerary officers to quit the service for a time, and thereby to relieve your establishment from the heavy expence which it at present labours under, we judged it adviseable to revise our former resolutions with respect to officers retiring upon their pay, and have now determined instead of requiring the oath of qualification from all to enforce it only in particular instances where our own knowledge of the circumstances of the party may make it necessary. At the same time we have thought proper to limit their residence in Europe to two years, and to allow one more for the passage to and from England.

63. The under-written list of resignations upon furlough will evince the success of this plan, and we trust the savings it has produced will procure us your sanction and approbation, viz.,

Retired on furlough without pay			
31st August	...	...	Major William McClary
Do. do.	...	...	Captains Thomas Browne
27th September	...	...	W. N. Cameron
Do. do.	...	...	Charles Jackson
Do. do.	...	...	Lieutenant John Darby
5th August	...	...	Captain Lieutenant John Fox
Retired on furlough on full pay to be received in Bengal			
24th August	...	...	Captains Thomas Thompson
31st do.	...	...	Thomas Gladwin
Do. do.	...	...	Thomas Edwards
27th September	...	...	John Powell
28th July	...	...	Lieutenants F. Marsden
24th August	...	...	E. Cracroft
31st do.	...	...	C. Crawford
27th September	...	...	George Mercer
Do. do.	...	...	George Foulis
10th October	...	...	Phillip Staunton
Do. do.	...	...	T. Wagstaffe
Do. do.	...	...	M. J. Gilbert
27th September	...	...	Ensign Richard Summer
10th October	...	...	Surgeon J. Craigie
5th August	...	...	Lieutenant Pater and
31st do.	...	...	Lieutenant Fireworker William Jones
have resigned the service altogether,			

64. We transmit an address to Your Honourable Court from Major Nicolls, and a copy of his letter to our Board. His original application for restoration to his proper rank, founded on your orders of March 1775 which he has quoted, and our minutes thereon are referred to in the margin.

65. We were extremely concerned that we did not deem our authority sufficient to restore this valuable officer to the rank which he claims. As we cannot but feel for the distress of his situation in serving under officers whom he had commanded with the highest credit to himself during the whole war with Cossim Ally Cawn, his conduct in which, and particularly at the battle of Buxar, entitles him to every mark of favor from you, we therefore earnestly beg to recommend your attention to his solicitation as we are of opinion that he would be an acquisition to your service in the high rank which, from his length of service, he is entitled to; and in support of our recommendation we beg leave to adduce the several testimonials which have been given of Major Nicolls' merit by his superior officers as noted in the margin, copies of which go numbers in this packet.

General Stibbert  
Colonel Morgan etc.,  
to Major Nicolls.

66. Having found it necessary to enlarge the cantonments at Barrackpore, and a tender of a bungalow and 200 *begas* of ground, contiguous to that station, having been made to us we were induced to purchase the same at an appraisement.

67. This addition to the cantonments of Barrackpore will add much to the healthiness of the station, and will be attended with other consequences beneficial to the service and the good discipline of the troops as it will afford the Commander in Chief an occasional residence at the cantonments.

68. The usual period for relieving your army stations being very near your Commander in Chief intimated his intention of issuing the necessary orders provided we approved the measure, knowing as we do the necessity of preventing, as much as possible, the large continuance of your troops in any particular place we immediately gave our consent; and to afford every assistance in our power for carrying this measure into execution we directed all advances from our treasury to be stopped until the army arrears, which were very heavy, should be materially reduced.

69. The contract for keeping the cantonments of Dinapore and Berhampore in repair expiring on the 1st October we thought proper to advertise for fresh proposals in the usual mode, agreeably to the letter of your orders. We have acceded to the lowest that were offered (security for the due performance of engagements being previously taken), and we are happy to acquaint you that the business will be executed for the next three years at the reduced rate of thirty six thousand *sicca* rupees, per annum by Mr. D. J. Cameron, one of the King's

24th August.

Consultation 10th  
October.

officers formerly of the 98th Regiment, but now upon half pay.

70. We have already communicated to you the foundation of a Society for the Benefit of Orphans and the principles of the fund for their support and education. In the infancy of this establishment we were applied to for our patronage and assistance; the undertaking was so laudable in itself, and the advantages which the Company might eventually derive from it of such importance to their interest that we contributed the sum of *sicca* rupees 40,000 for the support of the institution on the part of the Company, the managers having engaged to refund the same if you shall disapprove the donation within three years.

9th June.  
15th September.

71. The strong and pointed recommendation in your letter of 27th January last, of the Hindostani Grammar and Dictionary which Captain Kirkpatrick is compiling, and the real assistance which this work must afford to all your servants, exclusive of the moderate price at which it is published when compared with other productions of this country, have induced us to comply with Captain Kirkpatrick's request to subscribe for 200 copies on your account, and we flatter ourselves that your approbation will entirely sanction this measure.

Consultation 24th August.  
15th September.

72. The Surveyor General having been directed, in obedience to your orders of the 9th December, to prepare copies of all charts, maps etc., upon oiled paper to be transmitted to you represented that he could not compleat this undertaking unless his former establishment for draughtsmen was restored to him, and being called upon to state the expence he rated it at 2,090 rupees per month for 12 months, this appeared to us so high that we required him to report the lowest expence at which he could obey your commands conveyed in paragraph 19th of your General Letter of 9th December 1784, and in consequence of his reply, which we beg your attention to as well as to our preceding correspondence with Captain Call we resolved to allow him 4,000 rupees to compleat the rough draft of his large map of India, which we understand will soon be finished, and shall immediately be sent to you.

1st August.

73. On the 1st August, an application from the executors of Lieutenant Wilkinson was laid before us for the admission of his widow to the benefit of Lord Clive's Pension Fund. She is said to be in very indigent circumstances in England, and the estate, when every demand thereon is liquidated, is represented to be short of 1,000 rupees we therefore beg leave to intercede in favor of the widow, and to recommend her case to your humane consideration.

74. The state of the treasury this day is as follows:

Ready money.			
General Treasury	...	...	89,234 5 8



## Bills receivable

General Treasury ...	...	12,84,433	10	9
		<hr/>		
		Current rupees	13,73,668	0 5
Balance account deposits ...	...	11,19,429	11	10
Do. Accountant General to				
the Mayor's Court ...	...	1,16,918	3	3
Do. of the old bonded debt				
on which the interest				
has ceased by public				
advertisement ...	...	45,117	0	3
New bonded debt at 8 per cent ...	...	1,57,28,836	11	2
4 per cent remittance loan ...	...	8,56,840	0	0
		<hr/>		
		1,78,67,141	10	11 [sic]

Fort William,  
the 25th October 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.

42

## LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1785

*Committee of Accounts abolished—rejection of Colonel Watson's plan for conveying supplies to Canton—Walsby, Chief Mate of the Dutton, responsible for the disturbance on that ship—reasons for deficiency in the 1785 investment—Board of Trade holds the Calcutta Council partly responsible for the deficiency—the translations of the Ainai-Akbari by Gladwin and of the Shahnama by Champion recommended for the Court's patronage—General Stibbert's resignation accepted—Captain Hely's appeal against the sentence of court martial—Colonel Macleod's services on the Malabar Coast praised.*

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. By the *Rodney*, Captain Wakeman, we have the honor to transmit you quadruplicate of our address of the 25th October, and to acknowledge the receipt of your commands under date the 8th July per *Surprize*.

2. The packets, by this vessel, were delivered here on Sunday the 11th instant, and we read in Council the General Letter  
 Consultation 12th the day following, when the necessary orders were  
 December. issued on the different paragraphs as will appear by  
 a reference to our proceedings.

3. Before we send you a compleat reply to your letter of the 8th July we must receive answers to many references which we were necessarily compelled to make. We have, however, already had the pleasure to inform you of the abolition of the Committee of Accounts, and that the business of the Board of Inspection was in some measure divided between the Secret and General Departments, as will appear by a reference to our proceedings.

4. Your directions regarding the quick and dead stock of this Government and the other Presidencies, and of their receipts and disbursements, have, in a great degree, been anticipated; and we shall, by a future conveyance have the honor of transmitting you the Accountant General's remarks on the mode most likely to carry these your wishes into execution.

5. In the consultation noted in the margin you will perceive that we have had in contemplation the recovery of all outstanding balances and debts due to the Honourable Company. The success of the former will principally depend upon the exertions of the Board of Trade, who have been repeatedly written to on this subject, but we are sorry to observe that we are yet without the account of their balances although we have so pressingly and so often written for it. With respect to the latter we shall carry your commands into execution as far as lays [lies] in our power, and shall, from time to time, inform you of our success.

*Vide Governor-General's Minute, Consultation 4th July.*

6. Our broken set of proceedings in this Department for the complete months of October and November with indexes are sent you by this conveyance, and we shall forward those for December per *King George*, which ship is nearly ready for sea.

7. We have now the pleasure to acquaint you of the safe arrival of the *Dublin* in this river on the 30th October, that the *Intelligence* quitted her pilot on the 7th ultimo, and the *Francis* on the 16th instant on her voyage to Fort St. George, at which place Captain Urmstone will receive a complete cargoe for his ship, and be from thence finally dispatched for Europe. The invoices of saltpetre and Bengal goods amount to current rupees 7,25,790.

8. Several of the commanders of the Company's chartered ships have applied to us to be reimbursed the amount for wine and necessaries supplied [to] the recruits on the voyage out, but we have invariably referred them to you for the final adjustment of their demands.

9. The different passengers that arrived here from Europe this season have, as usual, been summoned before us, as will appear by a reference to our proceedings; and we have the pleasure to inform you that each person seemed pleased with the treatment he received during the voyage. The sums specified in our consultations will acquaint you of the amount paid for passages, but as the evil rests in the voyage home, not outward bound, we

*Consultation 21st November.*

would submit to your consideration the expediency of summoning before you the passengers who may arrive in England, when they will acquaint you of the treatment they received during the voyage and the amount taken for their passage money, by which you will know the exorbitant sums paid on this account.

10. From the President and Council of Bombay and from Captain Walker you will receive an account of the voyage to Mocha, which we adopted merely to employ the *Camden* as that ship would otherwise have been laid up at a heavy demurrage; we hope the success of the adventure will answer our expectations. And we beg leave to assure you we shall obey your commands in not sending any other vessel there until we have your express directions for it.

11. In the 12th paragraph of our letter by the *Swallow* we informed you of the sums which we had resolved to appropriate, from our resources, for the use of the other Presidencies this season  
*Vide Consultation 26th July.* amounting in all to current rupees 77,25,000 and we have now the pleasure to inform you that we have already accepted bills and effected remittances in specie and by bills to:

Fort St. George	current rupees	17,80,021	10	5
Bombay ... ..	...	32,04,639	0	6
Fort Marlborough ... ..	...	2,70,937	12	7
Making in all		52,55,598	7	6

12. Nor have we been unmindful of your orders respecting the supplies to Canton, having issued drafts on our treasury and delivered opium to the amount of current rupees 8,51,223 in favor of individuals who have engaged to pay the amount thereof into the treasury at Canton at the rate of 41 new Spanish dollars for every hundred current rupees. And as we have taken security for the due performance of engagement under a penalty we have no doubt but this remittance will be duly effected.

13. In the consultation noted in the margin there is a long letter from Lieutenant Colonel Henry Watson on the subject of our supplies to Canton, and the modes he recommends to be adopted for effecting them. His representation seemed calculated to prepare us for a plan which he had in contemplation and which actually made its appearance three days afterwards.  
*Consultation 16th November.*

14. In this plan Colonel Watson was joined by Captain John Tasker, the commander of a country vessel; its avowed object was to pay into the Company's treasury at Canton the sum of £90,000. Had we acceded to their wishes we must first have sold to them your ship, the *Sir Edward Hughes*, for the sum of one lac and forty thousand current rupees, which is not half her prime cost, we must have issued to Colonel Watson and

Captain Tasker to the amount of three lacs of rupees in copper at a rate below its present real value in Calcutta, we must have agreed to receive money into treasury at Canton for bills on you to the amount of £45,000 sterling, and have submitted to the contingency of the safe arrival of four ships in China for the payment of the cost of the *Sir Edward Hughes* and the amount of the copper. And after having sold the ship to them they expected us to covenant that she should be loaded at Canton for Europe, and that she should continue as a regular chartered ship in your service, or upon your objecting to this you were to pay to them the sum of £14,000 sterling for the purchase of the ship, six months after her arrival in the river Thames.

15. These proposals appeared to us so evidently disadvantageous to the Honourable Company that we did not hesitate to reject them, particularly as we had previously received from the Honourable the Governor General a plan of a voyage for the *Sir Edward Hughes* to the Malabar Coast, Bombay and China, and had actually commenced the necessary arrangements for carrying it into execution. We are sanguine in our expectation that the Honourable Company will not only by this means obtain a remittance of more than three lacs of rupees to China, but that a cargoe will be furnished for the *Sir Edward Hughes* for England, the freight of which will amply defray the charges that have hitherto been incurred by that ship, which, should she not be wanted at Canton to carry goods on your account to Europe, will in the event of war or the establishment of any settlement to the eastward answer the purposes you had originally in view when you ordered her to be built. We have ordered her to be put on the Bombay establishment at the lowest possible charge to the Company.

16. We are extremely concerned to acquaint you of the loss of the *Montague* which happened on the sixth instant by fire, as will appear at large in the protest of Captain Brittell which goes a number in this packet.

17. In our letter of the 25th of October we informed you that the *Winterton*, a ship taken up for Coast and China, arrived here on the 10th September. By a reference to the register of arrivals and departures at Fort St. George it appears Captain Snow imported there on the eighth August last, but that he represented the impossibility of being able to put the ship in a state to proceed, with safety, on her voyage until the latter end of that month.

*Vide* letter from  
Fort St. George of  
the 29th August,  
recorded in Consul-  
tation 23rd April.

18. The President and Council taking this matter into consideration, and "having received the opinions of some persons of experience who had often navigated the China seas, and who thought it would be scarcely possible for the *Winterton* to effect the passages were she to sail so late (in all August) in the season," determined to dispatch Captain Snow to Bengal.

19. By this measure we have had one ship more to load than we



expected, or the Honourable Company must be subject to the loss of 12 months' demurrage by laying her up, we tried every expedient to avert this loss but are sorry to say without effect, untill the loss of the *Montague* enabled us to appropriate that ship's cargo to the *Winterton*.

20. We beg to call your attention to the letters which we have received from Captain Snow upon this subject, and particularly to his claim of being dispatched for England according to his arrival here to the prejudice of those commanders who had accomplished their respective voyages.

21. From various circumstances we could not think it just to dispatch him according to the date of his arrival and before the ships originally destined by you for Bengal.

22. According to the notice we received from your Honourable Court of the number of ships which you had taken up we appropriated a specific sum for the provision of their respective cargoes. Captain Snow claimed one of these cargoes, and rested his pretensions upon his early arrival here, but as we considered this a very improper claim we could not depart so much from commercial regularity as to deprive any one of your commanders of his just right, and therefore did not hesitate to reject it.

23. We received a letter from Captain West, of the *Dutton*, covering a representation from his Chief Mate, Mr. Walsby, setting forth that the surgeon, and one Molloy, a steerage passenger, had behaved on board in a mutinous manner, and that the latter had commenced a prosecution against him for improper treatment during the voyage, which prosecution he requested we would order to be defended by the Company's law officers.

24. Being desirous of knowing the particulars of this business before we suffered the Company to be put to any expence in defending the suit in question we ordered a court of enquiry, consisting of some of your senior commanders, to hear the complaints of Mr. Walsby, and also what the surgeon and the passenger had to say in their defence, which they accordingly did, and reported that Mr. Walsby had greatly exceeded his powers in his treatment of Molloy, and by his violent conduct had rather encreased than conciliated the disturbances on board. This report of course determined us to reject the application.

25. Our letters per *Swallow* and *Intelligence* were so full and circumstantial relative to the investment which we expected to send you this season that we have only in this place to mention our apprehensions, from a late correspondence with the Board of Trade, of a very great disappointment in those expectations.

26. Under the most anxious desire to afford all the resources in the power of this Government, as well to enable you to discharge bills which will soon fall due as to avert the loss that must necessarily follow the detention of any of your ships in India, we, on the 23rd September, resolved to augment our supply for the investment to the sum of current rupees thirty three lacs, which we did by issuing a draft on our treasury for the sum of eight lacs of rupees.

27. According to the statements furnished us by the Board of Trade

Consultation 26th July.	the amount of their outstanding balances, which they expected to realize, and the produce of our advances would furnish for the ships of this season an investment amounting to	...	...	1,09,92,638
	They now tell us that there will be a difficiency [ <i>sic</i> ] of	...	...	20,00,000
	Which reduces it to	...	...	89,92,638
	The <i>Francis</i> carried	...	7,25,790	
	The <i>Rodney</i> has on board	...	14,09,400	
				21,35,190
	This leaves only		current rupees	68,57,448

To be divided on the *King George*, *Dutton*, *Deptford*, *Dublin* and *Winterton* which gives little more than thirteen lacs and an half for each ship.

This leaves only	current rupees	68,57,448
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28. How far this statement taken from the letters of the Board of Trade will correspond with your expectations from their assurances to us, we must leave it to the candor of your Honourable Court to determine.

29. Two causes are assigned by the Board of Trade for so great a deficiency, in their receipts of goods, as twenty lacs of rupees.

First the sudden death of Mr. David Killican who, they inform us, was the duly appointed Agent to Mr. Francis Law, the Commercial Chief of Dacca. This gentleman was under engagements to furnish the Dacca investment; and advances by drafts to the amount of three lacs of rupees were accordingly, on this account, issued to Mr. Killican, of which he had adjusted *sicca* rupees one lac, with the treasury, for *tuncaws* or bills on Dacca in favor of his constituent Mr. Law. Bills were also prepared for

the liquidation of the remaining part of this advance, but were withheld until the drafts in exchange for them were previously given up by Mr. Killican at the treasury. In this stage of the transaction Mr. Killican suddenly died, and the drafts which he should have supplied, in payment of these bills, were not forthcoming among his effects, though it is evident they were not sent to Mr. Law.

Secondly the difficulty as is set forth by the Board of Trade which their contractors labor under in raising money by our non-compliance with their requests to be furnished with more *tuncaws* or drafts on our collectors.

30. Had we complied with their request we should have been deprived of the means of discharging the military arrears of your troops in Bengal, which arrears were increased by the relief of the brigades falling out in this year. Other reasons will appear, in the dispatches from the Political Department, for appropriating every rupee that could be collected from the country to the support of Fort St. George and Bombay.

*Vide Court's orders of 11th April, paragraph 82.*

31. Besides we do not conceive the agents of the Board of Trade have any right to expect *tuncaws*, for when they made their engagements they knew the mode of payment would be by interest drafts on our treasury issued in the usual manner by the President of the Board of Trade, and knowing this they no doubt made their forms accordingly. We may add that the sums amounting in all to current rupees 28,25,428-14-3 issued to the Board of Trade in cash or *tuncaws* (which are the same as cash), since the 30th April last, will evince that every aid in our power has been afforded, and no exertion on our part has been wanting to enable them to fulfill their engagement to compleat the cargoes of all the ships now in the river. The correspondence with the Board of Trade upon this subject is now transmitted for your particular information.

32. We have granted permission to several individuals to send on the Company's ships of this season a quantity of indigo and raw silk. This permission will enable us to occupy the whole of your tonnage, and we hope all the ships will be dispatched before the expiration of the period limited by charterparty. We had flattered ourselves that even the surplus tonnage of your ships would be occupied with your own investment.

33. Not having yet received from the Board of Trade the allotment of the investment, formed upon the list sent out by the *Surprize*, we have been prevented from issuing the necessary advertisements for its provision by contract. We shall not, however, suffer any further delays on the part of the Board of Trade to interrupt this desirable object, as it is our intention forthwith to enforce your commands.

34. By the *Rodney* you will receive three chests of Patna opium,

and two by the *King George*, sent you by Mr. William Young, the late contractor, who has requested us to forward them to your Honourable Court, as a sample of the Bahar opium, which he is hopeful may hear after [hereafter] prove a beneficial article of commerce from this country to Europe. We wish to know the result of any experiments you may make with it.

35. The following covenanted servants, upon this establishment, have solicited and obtained our permission to proceed to Europe on leave of absence.

Consultations		
10th October.	Mr. C. H. Purling for two years	
5th December.	Messrs. James Irwin	} For three years
6th do.	Charles Graham	
2nd November.	and William Taylor	

And we have granted leave of absence and the pension annexed to their respective ranks to:

Consultations	
6th December.	Messrs. John Kneller
2nd November.	John Dynely
Do.	James Miller
15th do.	William Haverkam
21st do.	David Cuming
28th do.	Richard Tilghman and to
30th September and	R. T. Ives who proceeded to
2nd November.	Europe from the Isle of
	France.

36. The causes of the return to Europe of the above gentlemen are particularly set forth in their several letters, recorded in the consultations noted in the margin.

37. In the 187 paragraph of our letter of the 23rd October 1783, by the *Narbudda*, we informed you of a proposal made to us by Mr. Francis Gladwin for the publication of a complete translation from the Persian language of a book intituled the *Ayeen Akberry*<sup>1</sup>, and we then acquainted you that we had consented to subscribe for 150 sets of this work on account of the Company, but some objections arising afterwards against the payment of so large a sum from our treasury, at that time, Mr. Gladwin voluntarily waved his claim to the subscription money until your pleasure should be known.

38. Mr. Gladwin has lately addressed a letter to us recapitulating the circumstances which attended his first proposal, setting forth that he is far advanced in the laborious and expensive undertaking, the first and second volume of the work being already published and some parts of the third, and requesting that in consideration of the great expence and trouble he has been subjected to we would [repeat] our recommendation of the undertaking, and intercede with your Honourable Court for your acquiescence in our promised subscription.



39. Sensible as we are of the merit of Mr. Gladwin's labors, the encouragement that is due to every undertaking which has for its end the promotion and extension of eastern literature, as well in regard to the use its advancement may be of to the persons employed in your service as the knowledge it may afford to the European quarter of the globe, we cannot but repeat our earnest solicitation that your Honourable Court will permit us to confirm the subscription for 150 sets, which we formerly promised to take, as we consider our former recommendation and the known liberality which your Honourable Court have ever shewn towards the encouragement of works of this nature to have been the inducements which led Mr. Gladwin to commence so arduous a work, and thereby subject himself to a great expence from which he could only expect to be relieved through the liberality of his employers.

40. By this ship we transmit you, a number in the packet, an address from Mr. Joseph Champion, one of your civil servants, on a translation of the first part of Ferdosi's heroic poem, together with a minute of the Honourable Governor General on the subject, and we hope that your patronage will enable him to complete this arduous undertaking. We request your attention to the Governor General's minute and have only to add that we are happy in having this opportunity of recommending Mr. Champion to your notice.

41. Major General Stibbert having, for the reason set forth in his letter of the 24th October, requested our acceptance of his resignation of the service from the day of the dispatch of the *Rodney* now proceeds to England on that ship. We cannot pass over this opportunity of testifying our sense of General Stibbert's merits as an officer, and of declaring to you that we deem him highly deserving of your acknowledgements for his long and faithful services in the important station of your Provincial Commander in Chief. We are convinced that the paragraph, in your commands of the 11th April, reducing the allowances of the second officer of this military establishment could not have been meant as any mark of your displeasure towards Major General Stibbert; on the contrary we are persuaded that considering the tenor of his long and steady service you will be happy to bestow upon him every testimony that you can of your satisfaction with his conduct, in confirmation of our recommendation to which we think him fully entitled.

42. We have permitted Lieutenant Colonel Kyd, whose distinguished merits are fully known to your Honourable Court, to return to Europe on furlough for three years, his full pay to be received in Bengal, and we beg leave to recommend this officer, to your particular notice, for his able and faithful services to the East India Company. Lieutenant Colonel Kyd has taken his passage on a Danish ship.

43. In the 63rd paragraph of letter per *Intelligence* we informed you that Major William Maclary, Captains Thomas Brown, W. N. Cameron, Charles Jackson, John Fox and Lieutenant John Darby had retired on

furlough without pay, but they have claimed the indulgence granted to other officers and we have consented to it.

44. As Major Maclary has repeatedly distinguished himself on actual service we must, in this place, beg leave to introduce him to your notice as an officer of great merit deserving your particular attention.

45. Since our last letter the following officers have obtained our permission to retire on furlough for three years, their full pay to be received in Bengal, viz., Majors Henry Hawkins, Isaac Eaton, Robert Dawes and James Brown. Captains Samuel Sears, P. Hunter, C. Rankin, J. McIntyre, G. Waugh, Jabez McKenzie, V. W. Hussey, Samuel Black, Hugh McDermott, George Gooch, Sol. Earle, Fredk. Breton, Andrew Hearsey. Lieutenants Charles Wittit, D. Falvey, James Sinclair, Fredrk. Wilson, E. R. Jackson, James Laird, J. Jackson, B. Ralph, W. Henderson, G. H. Pyne, J. Bullock, J. Bullwant, R. Cumming, John Hughes, James Ewart, R. Llewellyn to travel into Arabia. Ensigns H. Purefoy, Joseph Hetcher and Mr. Howarth Assistant Surgeon.

46. By this ship Colonel James Morgan, who has served you long and in distinguished situations, has taken his passage to Europe after having resigned your service on the 10th October last.

47. In our Consultation of the 25th October you will observe a letter from Captain Hely, late of this establishment, introduced by a minute from your Commander in Chief. Though it is our general opinion that sentences of courts martial in military cases are as definitive as the verdict of a jury composed of peers in civil courts we could not, consistent with this case, [sic] particularly when your Commander in Chief had pointedly declared that "the sentence was of a severity he had never before met with, and that the proof of Captain Hely's inability to command did not seem sufficiently deduced."

48. We accordingly re-perused the proceedings, and being impressed with similar sentiments, but yet deeming ourselves incompetent to afford the assistance required, we resolved to point out to your early and serious attention the hardship under which he has long labored and to recommend such relief to him as in your judgment his case will appear to merit.

49. For your more immediate information we beg leave to refer you to the court martial at large, which was forwarded (no. 11) in the book packet per *Swallow*.

50. The Commander in Chief having proposed to order His Majesty's 42nd Regiment to Dinapore we agreed to its being stationed there.

51. Colonel Macleod, having come to Bengal for the purpose of joining his regiment, requested that we would give orders for the discharge

of the balance of his account of expences incurred for secret services, etc., during the time he commanded your army to the southward on the Malabar coast. Sensible of the distinguished services of this officer, and convinced of the justness of his representations—the distress he experienced in raising this money for the public service—the necessity which induced him to disburse so large a sum as well as the manner in which it was applied, and having obtained from Colonel Macleod as ample and satisfactory explanations of his accounts as could be given with such vouchers, adduced by officers of this establishment employed on distant and expensive services, we resolved to order the balance due to him to be paid; and accordingly issued the necessary directions for that purpose.

Consultation 9th  
November.

52. Colonel Macleod's eminent services to you on the Carnatic and (more especially on the Malabar coast) as well as his sufferings are fully known to you. He is now perfectly recovered of his wounds, and should he remain in India his experience and abilities will be of real use to the public service in whatever quarter he may be employed.

53. Major Metcalfe having signified his intention of resigning his office of Agent for Military Stores, and the Commander in Chief, conceiving that the Board would expect him to recommend a proper person to succeed the gentleman, accordingly recommended Captain John Collins at that time Aid de Camp to Major General Stibbert for the appointment, in which we acquiesced.

54. To the minutes that passed on this subject we must beg leave to refer, and at the same time assure you that we have not been unmindful of your orders respecting the succession of Mr. William Atkinson although we could not enforce them, as the consideration that the certain mode of obtaining the proper supply of military stores to your army, and the judicious disbursement of the Honourable Company's money, induced us to prefer a person whom the Commander in Chief thought particularly qualified for this important trust, which is so much connected with [his] department as Commander in Chief. Nor will it be of any detriment to Mr. Atkinson as we have resolved to appoint him to the first vacant office for which we may deem him qualified.

Consultation 9th  
December.

55. The state of the treasury this day is as follows:

Ready money	1,24,573	3	0
Bills receivable <i>sicca</i> rupees 5,00,000	5,80,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	Current rupees	7,04,573	3 0
	<hr/>		
Balance account deposits	9,82,482	10	11
Do. Accountant General to the			
Mayor's Court	1,16,918	3	3

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Do.	of the old bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by public advertisement ...	45,117	0	8
	New bonded debt at 8 per cent ...	1,57,28,836	11	2
	4 per cent remittance loan ...	8,56,840	0	0
		<hr/>		
		1,77,30,194	10	0

Fort William,  
the 31st December 1785.

We have the honor to be etc.









# APPENDICES

## I

**T**O the Honourable Warren Hastings Esqr., Governor General, and Council.

Honourable Sir and Gentlemen,

1. In consequence of applications that have been made to us on the subject of *batta*, or loss arising from advances not being made in the specific coins locally required at our subordinate stations we find it necessary to call your attention to this subject, and shall premise what we have to offer relative to it, by reciting the following paragraph, in point, from the commands of the Honourable the Court of Directors dated 23rd December 1778.

“When the Board of Trade find it necessary to apply for Advances of Money in Specific Coins, which cannot be obtained;  
Paragraph 147 it is our pleasure, that the Loss of Exchange on all such occasions, be carried to the Revenue and not to the Commercial Department”.

The representations that have been made to us, on this subject, have been numerous; but at our factories of Luckypore and Dacca it appears to us to be peculiarly felt. The advances issued from the treasury, transported through a country infested by decoyts after a very dangerous navigation, are exchanged at Dacca into Arcot rupees, and from an intolerable collusion kept up among the shroffs at that place, this is of necessity done at their own prices.

2. We have described the effects of this inconvenience locally, at the same time we are sensible and desire to inculcate, that it demands a general remedy. What that remedy shall be, the loss being directed by the Court of Directors to be charged to your department, we submit to your determination, but it would appear to us to be necessary during the continuance of it, either, that bills be granted us payable in the current coin of that station to the service of which their contents are destined, or that our agents should be allowed to purchase such coins, and charge the contingent loss to the debit of the Company in their accounts, from whence in progression it may be ultimately carried to that of the Revenue Department, according to the orders of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Fort William,  
26th September 1783.

We are,  
Honourable Sir and Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient humble servants,  
P. M. Dacres/William Barton/Alex  
Van Rixtel John Sumner/Henry  
Walter/Wm. Rooke



## II

**T**O the Honourable Court of Directors of the Honourable United East India Company.

Fort William 3rd November 1783.

Honourable Sirs,

[1] I humbly and earnestly solicit your favourable attention to the enclosed letter addressed to me for the purpose, as I understand, of a reference to your Honourable Court, from Munney Beegum, the principal widow of the Nabob Meer Mohummud Jaffer Khawn, and once the directress of his household. This introduction to your notice I have frequently promised to give to her claims, and I reluctantly yield to the obligation which her present solicitation, grounded on my engagement, imposes on me to present them at a time, which on many accounts, I fear may prove unpropitious to them. But the pressure of severe necessity will not always wait the delays which policy may recommend for the better assurance of success, and many years of her life have elapsed since she first looked to your justice and benevolence for the alleviation of her sufferings. These are not to be conceived by those who have not a near acquaintance with the modes of female life in those countries, where the religion of Mahomed prevails; and among women of the most elevated rank, hers is of that estimation in these provinces. Her education, and the confidence of her deceased husband were the causes of her being placed, by his appointment, in the charge of his family. How she was removed from it, [her] letter mentions, but delicately suppresses the indignities which attended her privation of authority. You Hon'ble Sir, will easily turn to their places on our records, and will remember without any reference the general subject of them. You will also remember, how unfortunately for her ease, interest and dignity, I made her the instrument of effecting the regulations which formed the substance of your first commands to me, on my accession to the office of President, under the former and ancient system of your Government; I hope I shall not transgress the lines of humility in claiming some merit with your Hon'ble Court, and a return yet due to me, for the scrupulous and studied obedience which I paid to those commands. I was, by private letters received at the same time with them, assured that it was suspected generally that I should elude the performance of them. I performed them most literally, and drew upon me, by it, a host of enemies, supported even in the place where my fidelity merited a more generous treatment. She too became the victim of your policy and of the resentments which succeeded. Something too she owed of the source of her misfortunes to the belief of the personal gratitude which she might entertain for the public attentions which I had shewn to her, yet exposed as she was to a treatment which a ruffian would have shuddered at committing, and which no recollection of past enmities shall impell me to believe, even for a moment, proceeded from any commission of authority, she still maintained the decorum of her character, nor even then, nor before, nor since that period, has the malice of calumny ever dared to breathe on her reputation.

[2] Pardon, Hon'ble Sirs, this freedom of expostulation, I must in honest truth repeat that your commands laid the first foundation of her misfortunes. To your equity she has now recourse through me for their alleviation, that she may pass the remainder of her life in a state which may at least efface the remembrance of the years of her affliction. And to your humanity she and an unseen multitude of the most helpless of her sex cry for subsistence.

[3] It is proper to apprise your Hon'ble Court that as this address is written without the knowledge of the other members of the Council, so neither shall I make any communication to them of the letter which it incloses. I am now the only remaining member of your Government who was formerly a party in the dissensions of which Munney Beegum was the object, and perhaps the only one of the present Board who have any knowledge either of her pretensions, or if she has any, of her demerits. The virtues of her sex are such as in their nature depress their possessors in silence and obscurity, and some years have passed since she ceased to be an object of notice. Were I to bring her claims at this time before the Board, whether for the purpose of requiring their effective sentiments upon them or simply for official information, in either case their opinions if opposite to mine would be hostile to her, and become the seeds of future and durable prejudices in the breasts of those who may soon become the disposers of her fate, and to whom, if they succeed to the full powers of my office, I should wish to bequeath the same spirit of kindness which I have ever felt and manifested to the family of Jaffer Ally Cawn. On this occasion it will better become me to commit and avow an informality, than by a more regular conduct to involve an innocent and deserving person in the hazard of future evils.

I have the Honor to be  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your most obedient and most faithful servant,  
Warren Hastings.

### *ENCLOSURE*

(Vide Paragraph 1)

TRANSLATION of *ARZIE* from the NABOB MUNNEY BEGUM, the WIDOW of the NABOB MEER MOHUMMUD JAFFIER KHAWN to the GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The usual introduction.

My claims on the Company and the rulers of this country are too well known to require that I should here enlarge on them. The attachment of my husband the Nabob Meer Mohummud Jaffier Khawn to the Company, the services which he rendered them, and his anxious concern for their prosperity, even from the commencement of their disputes with Cossim Ally Khawn to the hour of his death, are boundless, and such as

I shall not attempt to describe. They are preserved in the records of the Company. During the life of my husband Jaffier Mohummud Khawn, and of our son Nujim ul Dowla, who by favor of the Company was, according to the ancient custom of the country, appointed Nazim of Bengal with an established salary of fifty three lacks, eighty six thousand, and one hundred thirty one rupees, I was the mistress of the family and uncontrouled in my expences. I possessed besides, for my own sole and separate benefit, the management of several *Khass Mahals* or freehold districts, and other lands of great value, so long I continued exempt from every hardship and inconvenience. Afterwards Seif ul Dowla succeeded to the Nizamut. His salary was first settled at forty one lacks, eighty six thousand and one hundred thirty one rupees, but was soon afterwards reduced to rupees thirty two lacks. During his time I continued at the head of the women, relations and dependants of the two deceased Nabobs, and, however fallen, continued to lead my life in tolerable ease. I comforted myself with the conviction that the Honorable Company, in due attention to the merits of Jaffier Mohummud Khawn, would never be negligent in promoting the welfare of his family. In his last hours indeed he sent for me, and assured me that his merits with the Company were so well established and acknowledged, that whilst they should continue the rulers of this country they would be the careful guardians of his honor and family. And after both his decease and that of Nujim ul Dowla, Lord Clive came to my house and gave me similar assurances. He told me that though nothing could compensate for the loss of the two deceased Nabobs, yet that while the Company's power in this country continued it should be extended to the care and preservation of the honor and family of the Nabob, and that the gentlemen invested with the Government of this country would always attend to me and consult my welfare and happiness. So far his assurances were verified, that during the life of the Nabob Seif ul Dowla neither I nor the women of the deceased Nabobs, who now depended on me, were subjected to any great inconveniences. In the Bengal year 1179, when the stipend of the Nizamut was settled at sixteen lacks of rupees you visited the city. Alarmed by so great a deduction of the salary, I laid before you the circumstances and situation of our family, and represented to you the numbers who depended on me for subsistence. As you were early and intimately acquainted with the circumstances of our house you attentively considered my situation, and with a benignant regard to my ease and dignity were pleased to grant me a salary of one lack forty thousand rupees, exclusive of the sum of sixteen lacks which had been settled as the stipend of the Nizamut. From thence I was enabled with whatever difficulty to subsist myself, and to furnish a bare support, if nothing more, to the numerous and honorable relations of the two deceased Nabobs. In the Bengal year 1182, when the new gentlemen arrived from England, great contentions arose between the members of Council; and in the consequences of these were unhappily involved many of the natives of this country. Though no offence had been imputed to me, yet because, in attention to the deserts (deserts) of Meer Jaffier, you like your predecessors were pleased to favor me with your protection, the new gentlemen in the month of *Jeit* 1182, annulled my salary; so considerable a deduction

from what was before only a bare subsistence reduced us, notwithstanding the rights which we possessed, to a state of extreme distress. Unable to provide for the many relations and dependants who looked up to me for support, I frequently represented my afflictions to you. You comforted me with promises of assistance. Relying on these, and never doubting that you would kindly consider my wretched situation, I have by borrowing, and by the sale of me (my) effects, thus long contrived to subsist myself and support my relations and dependants. But the accumulated distresses which I suffer from, the importunities of my creditors, and the difficulties under which I labor are now beyond all bounds. I have not the means to satisfy the one, or power to bear the other. Affliction seems to threaten a period to my days. It is incumbent upon all the English gentlemen but above all upon you, who on the part of the King, the Company, and the English nation are the Governor of this country, and the distributor of justice to all who demand it, to consider with compassion our situation. If you will not attend to us, who will? Who besides yourself can afford us relief? Consider that this large family of helpless women are possessed of honor, and (are) the relations of the deceased Nabob. They are not servants whom I can dismiss. If, which God forbid, I should not be enabled to support the family, and they should be obliged to separate, consider the disgrace and obloquy which will be proclaimed by such an event through all the cities of Hindostan. As on the part of the King of England, and the Company you are the possessor and the ruler of this country; we call on you with uplifted hands for justice, and humbly hope that, in due consideration of our manifold claims, and in attention to the honor and happiness of our house, which is one of the most distinguished in Hindostan, you will be graciously pleased to restore to me the yearly allowance of one lack forty thousand rupees as it was before settled on me, that so I may free myself from the importunities of my creditors, and proportioning my mode of life to my circumstances, may pass the remainder of it in prayers for the welfare of the Company etc.

### III

**T**O His Highness the Nabob Wau Lau Jau Ummer Ul Hind Omdhat  
Ul Mulk Seraujee Ul Dowla Anner Uldeen Cawn Bahauder  
Munsoor Jung Sepah Saulaur, Soubahdar of Arcot and the Carnatic.

[1] In our letter of the 23rd April last by the *Cornwallis*, we had the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Highness's letters to that period, we have since received another letter from your Highness, dated the 1st February 1784.

[2] It gives us the most sincere concern to observe that misunderstandings should have arisen between Your Highness and our President at Fort St. George; we have ever esteemed Lord Macartney as a person of great worth and honor, and so very high does his lordship stand in our opinion, we have thought it proper, in consequence of a late Act of Parliament, to renew our confidence in him by appointing him a second time,



in conjunction with Alexander Davidson and James Daniel Esquires, to the management of our affairs of the Presidency of Fort St. George; if in any particulars Lord Macartney's conduct has been disagreeable to the feelings of Your Highness, we are persuaded he has been actuated by no sentiments of personal disrespect to you but by those principles of conscientious duty, which he conceived himself to owe to his Employers, and superiors, who, alarmed with the imminent danger to which the Carnatic was exposed, thought they best served the interest of Your Highness and their own by taking the most vigorous and effectual measures to realize a revenue and resources, for the repelling the hostilities which threatened destruction to the Carnatic.

[3] Our concern, at the terms on which Your Highness has expressed yourself in regard to Lord Macartney, does not arise solely from the personal esteem we entertain for his Lordship, but considering him in the light of the representative of the East India Company in the Carnatic, we are grieved that our old and faithful ally should have been led into any mode of expression incompatible with the respect due to the publick situation, which Lord Macartney holds, and we owe it to the preservation of our own honor and consequence among the powers in India, to express our confident expectations that Your Highness will never be induced, by any influence whatever, to use a language in your correspondence inconsistent with our wishes in this respect; we rely with the utmost confidence that your own noble mind will suggest in its full force the propriety of the representation we now make, and if any of our servants or others living under our protection shall, from motives of self interest or spirit of intrigue, be the instruments of conveying to Your Highness any representation injurious to our confidential servants, we will punish such persons as incendiaries [incendiaries], and treat them as enemies to your Government and ours.

[4] It is the privilege of friendship to speak plainly and openly, under that sacred name we beseech Your Highness to be deeply impressed with the conviction, that no benefit or additional security arises to the affairs of Your Highness, as connected with those of the British nation in India, from the aid of any individuals who may officiously endeavor to convince Your Highness that any representations, except through the medium of our true and legal representatives, will have any effect or operation in this country through them, you may rest assured that every representation from Your Highness will be faithfully transmitted, and, when received, candidly and impartially considered by your old friends and allies, the East India Company.

[5] These are our own genuine sentiments, and we have the satisfaction to inform you that, from a desire of preserving inviolate the rights of all the powers in India, with whom we are connected, an act of the British legislature has lately passed for the purpose of enforcing that principle, a court of judicature has been established for the punishment of delinquents in India, and no species of delinquency will be more severely punished than any attempts to violate or encroach upon any of

the established and stipulated rights of our friends and allies, a description applicable to none more strongly than to our old and faithful ally, the Nabob of the Carnatic.

[6] Not only has a court of judicature been established, but a Board of Control has been appointed by His Majesty, under the authority of the same Act of Parliament, by which appointment all our transactions become immediately connected with the executive authority and government of the British nation, and this, and every other communication we shall henceforward hold with Your Highness, will be with the knowledge and concurrence of this Board of Control.

[7] We speak the joint sentiments of them and ourselves, not only therefore our honor, but the faith of the British nation is pledged to preserve inviolate, every stipulation or agreement which shall take place between us. The same solemn act of Parliament has made a provision for settling, upon a permanent foundation, the present indeterminate rights and pretensions of Your Highness and the Rajah of Tanjore, which are to be ascertained and settled according to the principles, and upon the terms and stipulations contained in the treaty between Your Highness and the Rajah of 1762 [Tanjore].

[8] Your Highness will recollect that we are the guarantee of the stipulations contained in that treaty; we are conscious that the indeterminate claims of Your Highness and the Rajah of Tanjore have been made the foundation of much intrigue and disquietude to both, and by the jealousies thence resulting, the general strength of the Carnatic has been much enfeebled. As the friends of both, we have taken this subject under our serious consideration, and have instructed our Government at Fort St. George to use their best endeavors for the termination of every difference, and if that cannot be effected without our further interposition, we must step forth in the character of guarantee, and it is our duty particularly to remind Your Highness that the treaty of 1762, is invariably fixed as the basis of the final arrangement between Your Highness and the Rajah of Tanjore, and to that law, by the obedience we owe to the supreme legislative authority of our country, we are bound to adhere.

[9] Your Highness has frequently been pleased to mention to us the various engagements you have entered into with individuals, whose claims you have represented as the claims of justice. This important subject has been attended to by the legislature, who have given directions for an enquiry being made into the origin and justice of these demands, in order that a fund may be established, in concert with Your Highness, for the discharge of those debts, which shall appear to be justly due, according to their respective claims of priority. We have accordingly given our most serious attention to that subject, and we trust the opinions we have formed will be perfectly satisfactory to Your Highness. We cannot quit this subject without expressing our satisfaction at the wise resolution adopted by Your Highness not to incur any new debt to individuals. It is incumbent on us to point out particularly to Your Highness that, by

the Act of Parliament before mentioned, all British subjects holding or exercising any office or employment under the King, or the East India Company are prohibited from demanding or receiving any sum of money, or other valuable thing as a gift or present, or under colour [cover] thereof, and that the same shall be deemed and taken to be extortion, and shall be proceeded against and punished as such. We entreat, that Your Highness will be pleased to attend to this act of the British legislature, and that you will on no occasion, directly or indirectly, give any sum of money or other valuable thing, as a gift or present, to any of our servants, of any denomination whatever.

[10] With respect to the assignment, which your Highness was pleased to make of the revenues of your country in December 1781, we consider that transaction as a proof of Your Highness being impressed with the necessity there then was, of vigorous application of every resource the Carnatic could afford, for the expulsion of the common enemy from our territories.

[11] If it had suited the views and feelings of Your Highness to have acquiesced in the continuance of that agreement, we are disposed to think, from past experience of its effect during its continuance, that beneficial consequences might have resulted from it, for discharging the expences which the war [h]as necessarily brought upon Your Highness, but we are eager to embrace every opportunity of removing anxiety from the mind of Your Highness, and of evincing our firm intention to support you in all your rights and privileges, and even to make concessions to your feelings, although in some degree prejudicial to our own interest, we have therefore ordered our President, with whom the agreement was made, to make a surrender of the assignment.

[12] But having, by the cession of the assignment, thus manifested to Your Highness and to all India, how little we wish to encroach on the rights or possessions of the native princes, it is fit that we take effectual care to guard our own. By the peculiar relation which the British Government and possessions in the Carnatic bear to those of Your Highness and the Rajah of Tanjore, as well as by several specific agreements, the sword for the general defence of that country is placed in our hands, and no consideration will induce us, for one moment, to surrender it; towards its support, whether in time of war or in time of peace, it is reasonable that the countries protected by it should contribute, in proportion to their respective revenues, and it must tend to evince to mankind the justice of this claim, and reconcile the minds of Your Highness and your descendants, to a permanent and willing payment thereof, that the amount be not arbitrary or ascertained under agreements entered into in moments of difficulty, but such as depend upon the most obvious principles of equity. At present Your Highness pays the whole expences, ordinary and extraordinary, of ten battalions in our service, and the Rajah, in virtue of his own offer, pays four lacks of pagodas, per annum. Amongst parties so nearly connected together, we hold the equitable principle to be that a fair account be taken of the annual amount in time of peace

of our revenues in the Carnatic and of these [those] of Your Highness and the Rajah of Tanjore, and that to the expense of the military establishment in the Carnatic each of the three powers shall, proportionably to those revenues, respectively contribute. It will be a part of our duty under the late act, very soon, to settle the extent and amount of our military establishment in time of peace, upon which the necessary arrangements to be made will probably prevent us from giving our servants their orders by this dispatch, but when that is done, the precise sum, which each of the three powers will have annually to contribute in time of peace, will be then exactly ascertained.

[13] In case of war, which it will thus become equally the interest of all parties to avoid, the most adviseable plan is, that the whole revenues of the Carnatic should be considered as a common stock for the purposes of war; all ideas of peace establishment and peace appropriations must then cease; an exact account must be kept of all the extraordinary expenses occasioned thereby, and upon whomsoever the urgent necessity of the case may throw the immediate expence, each party must ultimately pay their proportion.

[14] Next to the certainty of a sufficient military fund, the punctuality of its receipt becomes essential to the general safety, and we therefore hold it reasonable to require, that a provisional assignment of the revenues of certain districts, somewhat exceeding these respective contributions, be made to us by Your Highness [and] the Rajah respectively, upon which we shall have no power to enter, while you or your descendants punctually pay these contribution[s], by monthly or such other instalments as shall be agreed upon, but upon which we shall have power to enter in failure of such payment, and keep possession thereof until all arrears are paid up and no longer.

[15] These are the principles upon which, every reason of policy and common safety suggests, that, a final arrangement between Your Highness, the Rajah and us, should be made. By such an arrangement, all grounds of future dispute between Your Highness and our Government will be avoided. We have accordingly, directed our President and Council at Fort St. George to act upon these principles, and to take effectual measures for carrying them into a final execution by a solemn, permanent and invariable treaty, to which Your Highness, the Rajah of Tanjore and the East India Company will be parties.

[16] We have opened ourselves, freely and without reason, to Your Highness upon these various important subjects, and we trust no other proof need be added of the sincerity of our disposition, to support Your Highness in the maintenance of your just rights; you and your family may repose your minds in confidence upon the good faith of your ancient allies, they, who have contended for the preservation of the Carnatic against an host of foes, can never be the means of diminishing that authority over the internal government of your country, which they have so repeatedly contributed to establish. This is our firm determination, but



we are equally firm in declaring that if any of the powers of India shall, either by secret intrigue or open hostility, disturb that union which ought to prevail between us, we will use our power, to its fullest extent, to punish those who shall thus prove the disturbers of the peace and common safety of the Carnatic.

[17] We therefore conclude with wishing to Your Highness and your family every degree of prosperity, and we indulge ourselves in the pleasing hope, that all former subjects of disagreement, between Your Highness and any of our servants, will be no more remembered, and that the return of public peace and tranquility will be attended with the return of private confidence and cordiality.

[18] And we have hereunto, affixed our great seal, in the city of London this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord 1784.

(L.S.)

#### IV

#### TRANSLATION OF A LETTER\* FROM THE NABOB MOTUM-MUN-UL-MOULK-UL-DOWLAH SUD MOBARECK ALLY, KHAN BAHADRE FEROZE JUNG

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors of the Honorable United Company, Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

(Here follows the accustomed address, which is merely complimentary and will not easily bear translation.)

[1] After assuring you that my mind is deeply impressed with sentiments of the sincerest attachment and friendship for you, and that the first wish of my heart is to enjoy the happiness of an interview with you, allow me to proceed to represent to your enlightened mind certain circumstances, respecting my situation, absolutely necessary for your information and meriting your most serious attention.

[2] As a steady adherence to the faith of engagements is held in esteem by all upright chiefs, and a literal performance of treaties is applauded by all great and liberal minds, praised be God that through his goodness, from the beginning to the present time, the fame of the justice, the good acts, the sincerity, the equity and the uprightness of your illustrious body has spread from one end of the world to the other.

[3] From these considerations all persons of foresight, penetration and wisdom have regarded the establishment of your authority, and the Government of the English in their country as a fortunate event productive of happiness to the people, and never as the cause of injury or distress; nay in so superior a light are the English considered, in regard to all these points beyond every other nation, that the extension of their government and power is most earnestly desired.

\* This letter bears no date.

[4] The following facts are incontestible proofs of the above assertion. Before the commencement of the English government, in this country, my deceased father, the Nabob Sujah ul Moulk Hissam ul Dowlah, Meer Mohomed Jaffier Khan, looking forward into futurity, from a well grounded conviction of the durability of their friendship and their steady adherence to treaty, laid the foundation of the most intimate connection and union with them, the cultivation of which he regarded as superior to every other consideration; nay so far did he carry this attachment, that, in consequence of it, his property, his honor and his life were hourly put to the hazard, through the suspicious and evil disposition of the Nabob Suraje Ull Dowlah. The circumstances in brief are these. The Nabob Suraje Ull Dowlah's mind was continually employed in forming plans of hostility against the English and on the means of extirpating them; and my deceased father as constantly engaged in endeavours to destroy or render those plans abortive, insomuch that he refused to accompany him to the siege of Calcutta, and, notwithstanding his rank (holding the station of General of the forces) and his near connection with the Nabob Mohabad Jung (whose sister he had married), yet in consequence of the obstinacy of the Nabob Suraje Ul Dowlah, and his deafness to advice, he relinquished all his greatness, and before the battle of Plassey resigned his post.

[5] Although the Nabob Suraje Ul Dowlah (whose disposition is well known), in consequence of this conduct, was daily planning the disgrace or death of my father, yet he, setting more value on the English friendship than on his own life, frequently declared amongst his family that if Suraje Ul Dowlah should put him to death for his attachment to the English, he was convinced they would remember his friendship, both here and in Europe, and return it in such a manner to his family as should never be forgotten, but become known to the whole world.

[6] Accordingly little time elapsed before the English, actuated by principles of justice, by a nice discernment of merit, and in conformity to the claims of friendship, rewarded my father for his attachment, by placing him in the Government of the three Soubahs, and the closest alliance was formed between them.

[7] Thus the steady adherence of the English to their engagements was universally spread, and became the subject of conversation throughout Hindostan. Every one sought their friendship, and was anxious to form a connection with them from that time to the present; in consequence of the integrity and uprightness of their conduct the rank and prosperity of the Company have been daily on the increase.

[8] May the Almighty grant my prayers and those of the whole people of this country, and make them flourish more, day by day.

[9] The treaties and engagements, contracted between my father and the illustrious gentlemen, I shall take the liberty to insert for your information and remembrance.

(The treaties with Meer Jaffier are inserted here).

[10] Afterwards, when on the 27th of Shabaun of the 6 Sun, my father, by the decree of the Almighty, was about to quit this transitory life for an internal one, being on his death bed he addressed himself to Baboo Bhegum my mother, and to my brothers in these words.

“Although you are now apparently about to lose my protection, yet I have formed the closest and most intimate friendship, and have contracted engagements with a nation who will always treat you and your posterity with even superior attention to what they have done in my life time, and from regard to their own fame, and the faith of their engagements will not fail to support your honor and dignity. On you it is incumbent, inviolably, to observe all the duties of friendship towards them, to the end of your lives”———these were his last injunctions.

[11] After his death, by the favour of God and the friendship of the illustrious gentlemen, my eldest brother, the Nabob Nudjeem Ul Dowlah, Nudjeem Ul dien Ally Khan, was fixed in the Soubahdarry of the three provinces; and the illustrious chiefs of the English nation, induced thereto by a sense of right, concluded a treaty with my brother, of the same nature of that which had subsided between them and my father, and in every instance paid the greatest attention to his dignity and honor.

[12] The following is a copy of the treaty in English and Persian, under the seal and signature of my brother Nudjeem Ul Dowlah, which I shall insert for your inspection.

(Here follows the treaty)

[13] My brother continued about two years in the Soubahdarry of the provinces, when it pleased the Almighty to remove him from this world on the 27th of Zekaida of the 7th Sun. On this my next brother, the Nabob Sief Ul Dowlah, was put in possession of the government, and the illustrious chiefs continued their friendship to him. But at that time, from some untoward circumstances, and various causes which it would be useless to particularize, it was determined to reduce the stipend allotted for his support.

[14] Although this was strongly opposed and remonstrated against, on the principle that there ought to be no deviation from the engagements formed with the Nabob Nudjeem Ul Dowlah, and that it could never be consented to, that the treaties of the English were of a nature not to be broken through, yet, as my brother had at that time no patron, the reduction took place. This deprived a world of people who were dependent on the Nazim of subsistence, plunged them into the greatest distress, occasioned a considerable diminution in the splendour of the Nazim and involved his friends and relations in difficulties and disgrace. But he hoping that the justice of the English Company and the consideration of

their own dignity would, on no account, suffer them to give their sanction to the reduction, and would in the end induce them to act with their former regard to our family, the stipend proposed, notwithstanding the distress it occasioned, was agreed to. The following is a copy of the treaty then made with my brother.

*(The Treaty with Sief ul Dowlah)*

[15] Afterwards, when on the 22nd of Zekaida of the 11th Sun, by the favour of God and the friendship and justice of the English gentlemen, the administration of the three provinces was vested in me, they continued the same conduct to me as they had observed to the Nabob Sief ul Dowlah. A new treaty as usual was formed; a copy of which I shall introduce here for your information, as well as to explain my situation.

*(The Treaty is entered here)*

[16] The stipend was continued on the footing of the above treaty for two years five months and seven days, when I received a letter from Mahaum ul Dowlah, Mr. Cartier, Rustum Jung, informing me that this trifling stipend must be reduced even to the half of it—God only knows into what a state of affliction this news plunged us; the reduction of what was before so inconsiderable appeared worse than death itself, and impressed every mind with horror. For your information I shall introduce a letter, which I received from Mr. Cartier, containing a promise that when I should become of age the Company would shew me favour, and pay proper regard to my situation.

The following is a copy of it.

“As I am a servant of the Company, it is my duty to pay attention to every direction with which they may honor me, and to the utmost of my power, carry into execution every order they may give me. But although I am the instrument, I cannot without the greatest pain communicate any matter to you which must give you uneasiness. It being a point of Duty between a Servant and his Master there is no alternative. In a Letter which I have lately received from Europe, from the Company they instruct me to intimate to you that they do not think the Stipend you have hitherto enjoyed necessary during *your minority*, nor for your Present State. The sentiments of the Company are, that *during your minority* the annual sum of Rs. 15,81,999-9 is sufficient for every purpose, and will support the dignity of your station. I am therefore, to inform you, that in future you will receive the before mentioned sum for your Expences. When you attain the Age of Twenty one Years, I doubt not that the Company will [pay] attention to your situation, and will add what they may judge proper to the above sum.”

[17] As the preservation of the English friendship was absolutely necessary, and my deceased father had persevered in it, even at the hazard of his life; I also, notwithstanding I plainly saw, from the reduction of



my stipend to so inconsiderable a sum, the greatest and most insupportable difficulties, the ruin of all my dependants and friends, and of every one connected with my family, yet hoping that patience might produce future good, and relying on the integrity and good faith of the English, on the promises implied in Mr. Cartier's letter, and in the orders of the Company, I was necessitated to assent. From that time the distresses and difficulties, in which I have been involved, from the inadequacy of my income to my expences, from the importunity of my creditors, and the clamours of my servants, are inconceivable. And although I have sold great part of my own and my mother's jewels to defray the unavoidable disbursement of the Nizamut, so that scarce any are left fit for my rank, yet, in the 22nd Sun, there was a debt of near twenty two lacks of rupees, due to the pensioners and servants of the Nizamut, including the debts of the Nabobs, my predecessors.

[18] Moreover the Almighty has blessed me with a numerous offspring, consisting, at present, of nine sons and seven daughters, several of whom (according to the age fixed by the customs of this country) are marriageable, and by the same customs the nuptials of the children of men of rank are attended with heavy expences. It is also an invariable rule on the marriage of a daughter to confer on the son-in-law honorable titles, and a stipend adequate to the support of them.

[19] Although my rank and dignity are well known throughout Hindostan, yet, as it is equally known that I am so intimately connected with the Company that our credit is inseparably blended, should matters of such importance be neglected it will reflect disgrace not on me alone, but on the Company. This requires your most serious attention, as under my present circumstances it is impossible for me, without your assistance, to accomplish these several objects.

[20] From the time when the reduction of my stipend took place I looked forward to the age of twentyone years, when I trusted that all my difficulties and distresses would be changed into ease and happiness, by the performance of your promises. When I had reached that age, considering the difficulties in which the Company were involved from a variety of occurrences, and afterwards by the wars, both in this country and in Europe, that it was inconsistent with the duties of friendship to trouble them, under such circumstances, with a representation of my sufferings, and that I ought rather to bear a part in theirs, I patiently waited for a more favourable opportunity, although, in the mean time, my distresses became insupportable, and many of the dependants of the Nizamut were totally ruined.

[21] When, by the blessing of God, and through my ardent wishes, and midnight prayers, and those of all connected with me, peace was restored in every quarter, and the Company, relieved from their troubles, were victorious every where, and I neither saw nor heard of any steps being taken to remove or alleviate my sufferings, which daily increased, and at last arrived at such a pitch as to be insupportable, I found myself

indispensably obliged to represent my situation to you, and to call your attention to it.

[22] As my connection, gentlemen, is solely with you, and to you I look for the performance of your engagements, I have judged it proper to depute a person, as my agent, immediately to you.

[23] I have accordingly made choice of Sir John D'Oyly, one of your servants, a gentleman who has long resided with me as your Resident, has been witness of my distresses, is perfectly acquainted with my sentiments and who, from attachment to both parties, will, I doubt not, prove agreeable to you for this office.

[24] He will remain on the spot, will represent to you distresses under which I labour, solicit your compliance with my requests, on my part concert with you a plan for the restoration of my affairs, and for securing the ease and happiness of all the dependants of the Nizamut, on the terms of former treaties; he will also, from time to time, make such applications to you as my situation may demand, and obtain and communicate to me your replies.

[25] I request that you will regard whatever that gentleman shall represent to you, on my part, as proceeding immediately from myself, and as equally authentic.

[26] I trust in you, gentlemen, that you will not delay to afford me relief, but that you will, by complying with the subjoined requests, fulfil the terms of your engagements, and attend to the preservation of my dignity.

[27] A speedy attention to these points will spread the fame of the Company for integrity and good faith, throughout the universe, and render me eternally grateful. My situation will not admit of delay. On the fullest conviction of your friendship and justice I have assured my creditors, and claimants of every denomination, that as soon as you are acquainted with these circumstances you will instantly apply a remedy. In the same confidence I have satisfied myself with the delay of the marriages of my children, and of many other matters indispensably requisite.

[28] Should it be the determination of your Honourable Court to support, in comfort, all the numerous relations and dependants of the former Nazims, who, from time immemorial, derived their subsistence from their bounty, and who of late years, from the reduction of the stipend of the Nazims, have been reduced to the utmost penury and want, it will be necessary to revert to the former establishment; as any thing less than the stipend, stipulated in the treaty with the Nabob Nudjeem Ul Dowlah, would be insufficient to keep up the dignity of the Nizamut, to support a proper degree of state and to provide decent subsistence for those who depend on it.

[29] As my wants are greater so my expectations from the Honorable Company exceed even what they granted to the aforesaid Nabob, and are founded on these grounds. First—that my aforesaid brother had no children, and by the customs of this country children are the causes of very heavy expences. The Almighty has blessed me with a very numerous offspring, each individual of whom must be supported with a degree of state equal to my rank, or both father and child will fall into disgrace and contempt. Second—The distresses I have experienced from the delay, of ten or twelve years, in the expectation of the performance of the Company's engagements. This was not the case with my brothers. Independent of this, all the debts of my brothers and the expences of supporting all their women, dependants etc., etc., have fallen on me. From these circumstances I look for superior assistance at the hands of the Company.

[30] As the Almighty delegates his power to princes and magistrates for the purpose of supporting the needy, and for the ease and happiness of mankind, a multitude of people in Bengal derived their subsistence from the bounty of the Nazim's, the fame of which brought numerous bodies, in expectation of a livelihood, from the different parts of Hindostan, from Persia, etc., nor were they disappointed. There are still thousands of these, in the utmost distress, who look forward with hope to the re-establishment of the ease and splendour of the Nizamut, through the liberality of the Company. In fact innumerable Mussulmans, and others, entirely depend on the Nizamut for a subsistence.

[31] When on the accession of the Nabob Nudjeem Ul Dowlah the sum allotted for the expences of the Nizamut, the subsistence of its dependants and the support of its splendour, was fixed at upwards of fifty lacks of rupees, and that this decrease, from what it had been in the time of the Nabob, my father and his predecessors, occasioned such ruin and distress to multitudes in Bengal; let the Honorable Company consider, how infinitely the distress must have been aggravated when the stipend was reduced to the trifling sum of sixteen lacks, and that to the former established expences were added those of supporting all the women, relations, connections, and dependants of my father and the succeeding Nazims, (which in Hindostan amount to an incredible number, and inconceivable expence) and they will then be able to form some judgment of the present miserable state of the Nizamut.

[32] Those who are acquainted with the manners and customs of different countries know that most of the Mussulmans, in this country, are totally detached from trade and manufactures, particularly those who have been in the service of the king or princes of the country, who are accustomed to consider their offices as for life. This being the case, it must be evident, to what a state of distress, all under this predicament, with their families must be reduced, from having been so many years out of employ, through my inability to retain them in pay.

Although the representation of these matters may appear degrading

to my dignity, yet how long must I be patient? How long must I wait? When life becomes a burden, and honor can no longer be supported, man is most miserable.

[33] Impressed with the firmest conviction that your illustrious body, from regard to your own fame, (which from such conduct will spread through Hindostan and the whole universe) will adopt such measures as will remedy past evils, and restore the people here to ease and happiness. It would be improper to press you on the subject, were it not, that should it happen, from the great distance, and from delay in the consideration and deciding on these matters, much time should be lost, the existence of those abovementioned would become insupportable, and the greatest disgrace, dishonor and ruin be brought upon me. I conjure you, therefore, for God's sake, speedily to apply a remedy to our sufferings. My requests are:

*First.*—That as I have now attained my twenty-eighth year, and am perfectly competent to the management of my own affairs in the properest manner, my undoubted right to be master in my own family, by the appointment and dismissal of my minister (Naib) and servants, be acknowledged. It can never be necessary that any interference should take place in matters of this kind, such interference has already been highly detrimental to my concerns; and God is my witness, that but for the kindness and friendly attention of the Governor General, and the measures he has taken for the regulation of my affairs, I should, at this time, have been involved in tenfold debt and distress. By means of his kindness, and the assiduity of Sir John D'Oyly, my affairs have been put in such a train as to enable me to expect your determination. My obligations to the Governor General are boundless. Where [were] I to write volumes on the subject I could never sufficiently express my gratitude. The virtues which adorn his character are precious gifts of the Almighty to the people of Hindostan, and insure to them the enjoyment of comfort and ease. That God may preserve his life and power, and long continue him in the Government of this country, is not my wish alone, but that of the whole people.

*Second.*—As the first passion, in the heart of man, is the desire to preserve that degree of rank and dignity in which he was born I am hopeful, that your illustrious body, taking this into consideration, will make it a point to support the honor of the Nizamut, both here and in Europe, and will shew such marks of regard to me as may tend to the augmentation of my dignity. I am induced to make this request, because your attention and regard to every degree of rank is universally known, and spoken of.

The favor shewn to the Nabob Ameer Ul Hind, Mahomed Ally Khan, the Soubahdar of Arcot, both by His August Majesty and your illustrious body, has exalted your credit and fame everywhere.

Since then, the claims of my father, and his firm attachment were so



far superior to those of any one else, and were ratified by treaties and engagements, since those claims and that attachment have descended to me, and since, moreover, the superiority of rank, which the Nazims of Bengal, Bahar and Orixia enjoy above all other Nabobs, cannot be unknown to you, namely, that they possess three of the highest marks of dignity under the empire of Hindostan; the right of riding in a Nalekin, (generally reserved to the blood royal) that of granting titles of nobility, and that of fighting elephants; (privileges granted only to the Nazims of Bengal) I trust that, in consideration of these circumstances and of your constant regard and attention to established rights, you will not suffer my dignity to be infringed. Although the great respect shewn me by the Governor General, on every occasion, calls for my warmest gratitude, and God is my witness, that I am so perfectly satisfied therewith, that, had I a thousand tongues, I should fail in the praises justly due to his virtues, yet, as such qualities would be found with difficulty elsewhere, the consideration of the future leads me to request you will direct, that the forms of respect due to my rank may be invariably observed.

*Third.*—As the city of Moorshedabad had been, for great number of years, the residence of the Nazims, and is now mine, permit me to call your attention to the peculiar circumstances of disgrace in which the whole country must see me involved. I, whose predecessors possessed the government of the three provinces, have no authority in the very city of my residence, and in the environs where are situated the parks and hunting places appertaining to the former Nazims, and still left to me, though, without exaggeration, not a thousandth part of our former possessions. The establishment of Magistrates, and of a variety of authorities in this city, independent of me, is attended with confusion, sinks the credit of the Nazim and produces numberless mischiefs to the inferior classes of the people. Upon these considerations I am led to request that the government of this city, which contains my numerous relations, dependants and connections, and the administration of justice therein, may rest solely with me. This would be a measure securing equally, the ease and happiness of the people, and the credit of the Nazim.

You will please to observe further that my request has only relation to the government of the city and the administration of justice, and is entirely unconnected with the revenue, or management of the country; and to be held under the controul of your Council, whose instructions I should ever make it a point to comply with invariably, as I have hitherto done. Of this your illustrious body may rest fully assured.

*Fourth.*—As it is of the utmost consequence to my happiness, and the proper management of my affairs, that the gentleman appointed to reside with me, on your part, should be possessed of abilities, a good disposition and a thorough knowledge of the manners and customs of the country; allow me to request that you will give strict orders to your government here, that, whenever there may be occasion to appoint a new Resident, they may be very particular in the choice of the person, and consult with me before the final determination takes place.

*Fifth.*—As it cannot but be universally acknowledged that when a divided authority exists in a family self interested people, taking advantage of it, will by their intrigues, sow division between brethren or between parents and their children, which is attended with inconceivable mischiefs; to guard against these evils, in my family, it is particularly requisite that I, as the head of it, should be invested with authority over all the dependants of the Nizamut, and over all the relations and connections, both great and small, [of] my deceased father and brethren.

[34] Should I abuse this authority the gentlemen of your Council are competent to take cognizance thereof, and would doubtless, in such case, give me proper advice, which I should invariably attend to.

*Sixth.*—As the debts due from the Nizamut, which on a settlement in the 22nd Sun amounted to near twenty two lacks of rupees, must be discharged; the jewels and furniture (which I have been obliged to dispose of, during the time of my confined income) replaced; the nuptials of my children celebrated, which, by the customs of this country, must take place at a very early period of life, and if delayed be highly disgraceful to the family, and, as besides all this, I am bound to support and provide for my connections and dependants, who have suffered the greatest distress in the expectation of the accomplishment of the Company's engagements; I therefore hope for your justice that, to enable me to perform all these obligations, you will grant me the increase of authority and stipend above solicited, which can only be effected by reverting to the treaty made with the Nabob Nudjeem Ul Dowlah.

[35] I further hope, that agreeably to your promises, you will make good to me, at one payment, the difference between the sums I have, and those I ought to have received from the time I came of age until now, at the rate stipulated in the treaty made at my accession; that I may immediately apply a remedy to past evils, and that the fame of the goodness and liberality of the Company may be spread throughout the world, and the blessings of heaven insured to them, both here and hereafter.

[36] I make it my earnest intreaty that, having considered my several requests and determined upon them, you will transmit your resolutions thereon, specifying explicitly the amount of the stipend to be allowed me in future, and all other particulars in a Bengal packet, with your positive orders to your Government here to carry them implicitly into execution, and that you will not suffer it to depend on them, lest delay should arise, which would be highly injurious to me. I also request that, whatever orders you may transmit on the subject, you will enclose me a copy of them in a letter from yourselves.

[37] I trust in the justice of your Hon'ble Court that you will attribute the length of this letter and the repetition of complaints it contains to no other cause than that of the greatest distress.

[38] Whoever labours under excess of pain and affliction will inevitably complain. On this consideration you will, I flatter myself, excuse the great trouble I have given you, and with the utmost expedition apply a remedy.

[39] Sir John D'Oyly is perfectly acquainted with all the foregoing particulars, and with every sentiment of my heart; he will represent them to you and clear up any doubt which may arise on any of the articles.

[40] You will, I doubt not, approve of his appointment, and will pay the same attention to what he shall represent as if proceeding from myself.

A true translation of the Nabob Mobarack ul dowlah's letter to the best of my judgement.

J. H. D'OYLY.

## V

Sir,

[1] The enclosed paper is a copy of the alteration, which in obedience to the orders of the Honorable Committee, I have presented to Mr. Smith, the Company's Solicitor, and which I am anxious to have inserted in the lease for New Harbour instead of the clause, which subjects the whole property to forfeiture in case a dry dock for ships of 74 guns is not finished in seven years.

[2] The completion of my plan must greatly depend, sir, upon the disposition of people in Bengal to join me in the vigorous prosecution of it; but the idea of forfeiting the harbour, in case unavoidable accidents should happen, to interrupt the work of the dry docks, and prevent their completion, will, sir, I fear, operate a prohibition against the undertaking.

[3] Notwithstanding the very heavy losses which I have sustained, and the discouragements which I have met with, I still possess an anxious zeal to go on with the enterprize, in the most firm confidence, that the first naval campaign will prove to the Honorable Court of Directors that my plan is practicable, and that the British fleet will derive from it most important advantages, over the enemy, in point of time.

[4] The information which I might obtain by going to visit the royal ports, previous to my departure, would prove of great use to me in the prosecution of the work; and leads me to hope for a speedy decision,

as it would admit of time for me to collect that kind of knowledge on which the good success of my plan so much depends.

Cecil Street,  
the 18th August 1785.  
William Devaynes Esqr.  
Chairman of the Honorable  
Court of Directors.

I have the honor to be,  
With the highest respect  
Sir,  
Your most obedient and most humble  
servant.  
Benjamin Lacam.

### V(a)

*Alteration, proposed by Mr. Lacam, to be made in the lease for New Harbour.*

And within the term of seven years after the arrival of the said B. L. in Bengal, he shall prepare a careening harbour, which shall be capable of receiving His Majesty's and the Company's ships, to any extent of number and size; and that dry docks for ships of all dimensions shall be made at the said harbour, within the term of ten years, under a penalty of two thousand pounds.

### V(b)

[1] Pursuant to the order of the Joint Committee of Correspondence and Shipping of 3rd August last, Mr. Lacam has communicated to me his remarks on the draft of the lease of New Harbour, proposed to be granted to him, respecting the alterations he wished to have made therein.

[2] The parts of the draft on which his observations arose are marked with letters from A. to G: but upon considering the whole, in the conference I had with him, he agrees to waive all his objections except on the two following points, which he desires may be submitted to the consideration of the committee, viz.,

1. The clauses which subject to him to damages for not supplying stores of quality equal to the prices he may demand for them, and for not allowing ships, in default of his supplying stores of good quality and at the stipulated profit, to procure and supply their own stores.
2. The clause which limits his finishing the docks to the term of 7 years.

[3] As to the former of these points Mr. Lacam wishes to avoid the trouble, expence and uncertainty of an appeal to a court of law upon every difference, which may arise, respecting the quality and price of stores, and to that end desires that these matters may be referred to the Governor General and Council, for the time being, by whose determination he is willing to abide, and that the same should be final. It seems to me that



this mode of determination is shorter and less expensive, and will answer every purpose of leaving the parties to a legal remedy.

[4] As to the latter point Mr. Lacam thinks the term of 7 years too short a period for subjecting him to a forfeiture of the lease, for not completing the docks; more especially, if the term commences from the date of the lease in England; he therefore desires that he may be allowed 10 years from the time of his arrival in India. It was Mr. Lacam's wish that, instead of being subject to a forfeiture of the lease for not making the docks, he should only be liable to a pecuniary forfeiture, but on reconsidering the subject, he does not make a point of it, but consents to take the lease subject to forfeiture, having the term enlarged. Having considered the object of this lease, and all circumstances attending it, I don't think Mr. Lacam's request an unreasonable one in substance, and shall only propose to vary it a little in mode. If the lease was to commence from its date in England a great part of the 7 years would probably be elapsed before he could get to work, it may likely be 8 or 9 months before he will arrive in India; and after he gets there, as he hath not funds of his own to proceed in the work, a great deal of time must be spent in engaging monied men to be concerned with him, or to give him effectual assistance to carry on the undertaking, and after this, all necessary materials and workmen are to be collected before the work can begin; in all which matters two or three years of the time may be lost. But if the term of 10 years is to commence from the time of Mr. Lacam's arrival in India it would be in his power entirely to defeat it, by not going in India at all, I would therefore recommend that the lease should be executed in India by the Governor General and Council under the Company's seal there, and that the term of 10 years should commence from the day of the date. The executing the lease in India may also be attended with the advantage of making it more perfect, and freer from errors. Many things may occur upon the spot which cannot be observed here, and at all events a correct plan of the demised premises may be taken to be annexed to the lease, examined and authenticated by the Company's Surveyor; the plans here, I believe, have not been so examined and authenticated; if any alterations or additions to the covenants or conditions of the lease should appear necessary the Governor General and Council should be authorized to make them, so as to make it more explicit and explanatory as to the spirit and meaning of the lease, which I conceive to be that Mr. Lacam should perfect a work of publick utility, and in consideration thereof, that he should have the protection and support of Government, both in executing it and in securing to him afterwards such fair advantages as the proprietor ought to enjoy from such a work, subject to such checks and controul as may be necessary to protect the publick interests. If the committee shall see proper to have the lease executed and the old *pottah* surrendered abroad the draft of the lease, as agreed to here, should be signed by Mr. Lacam and the Company, and he should consent that the Governor General and Council may make such alterations or additions, consistent with the spirit and meaning thereof, as they may find necessary to make it more explicit, and to guard and protect the publick interests, and he should agree that he will accept the lease, so added to or altered, and will

execute a counterpart thereof, and surrender his old *pottah*.

N. B. there are some blanks in the draft to be filled up by the committee.

John Smith  
27th September 1785.

### V(c)

*At a Joint Committee of Correspondence and Shipping,  
the 7th October 1785.*

Your Committee have resumed the consideration of the various applications made by Mr. Benjamin Lacam, concerning New Harbour in Bengal river, and also the letters from the Right Hon'ble Lord Sidney, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretarys of State, recommending Mr. Lacam to the Company, and having maturely deliberated on the state of Mr. Lacam's claims, and the object of making a dock or docks at New Harbour, have settled a draft of a lease to be granted to Mr. Lacam for the purpose of making a dock or docks, and harbour for ships. To hold for the term of 1,000 years at a pepper corn rent for the first ten years, and the rent of 100 *sicca* rupees for the remainder of the term, under certain restrictive covenants and agreements to secure the use and advantages of the harbour and docks to this country and the ancient free navigation of Channel Creek to the public; in consideration of certain reasonable allowances, to be made to the lessee and covenants, to prevent the dock and harbour coming into the hands of foreigners or being used by them without license from the Company's Government in Bengal, which draft of a lease the Committee submit to the Court, recommending that it should be executed in India by the Governor General and Council under the Company's seal there, and that it should be dated and executed within twelve months from this time, with a liberty for the Governor General and Council to make such alterations in or additions to the covenants and agreements, in the lease, as may appear necessary to make it more explicit and explanatory, and the better to forward the spirit and object of the lease, in respect to such checks and controul, as may be proper to protect the public interests, and, at the same time, to secure to Mr. Lacam the support of Government in executing the work, and such future advantages as the proprietor of a public work ought to enjoy. And for the purpose of putting an end to further disputes and altercations, in this business, your Committee further recommend that an approbation of the draft of the lease should be signed in triplicate by the Secretary, by order and on behalf of the Company, and by Mr. Lacam who should agree to surrender and give up his old *pottah*, in consideration of this new lease, and should consent that the Governor General and Council may make such alterations *therein* or additions, consistent with the spirit and meaning thereof, as they may find it necessary to make it more explicit and to guard and protect the public interests, and he should agree that he will accept the lease, so added to or altered, and that he will execute a counterpart thereof.

And the Governor General and Council should be ordered to have the plan, to be annexed to the said lease, examined, to see that it is correct and if not, to have it corrected and made perfect.

### V(d)

At a Court of Directors held on Wednesday the 19th October 1785.

The Joint Committee of Correspondence and Shipping in a report dated the 7th instant, now read, submitting to the Court draft of a lease to be granted to Mr. Benjamin Lacam, for the purpose of making a dock or docks and harbour for ships in Bengal.

The said draft was read and approved,

And in pursuance of what is further recommended in the said report it was:

Resolved that the said lease be executed in India by the Governor General and Council, under the Company's seal there.

That it be dated and executed within twelve months from this time, with a liberty for the Governor General and Council to make such alterations in or additions to, the covenants and agreements in the lease, as may appear necessary, to make it more explicit and explanatory.

That an approbation of the draft of the lease be signed in triplicate by the Secretary, by order and on behalf of the Company, and by Mr. Lacam who should agree to surrender and give up his old *pottah* in consideration of this new lease, and should consent that the Governor General and Council may make such alterations or additions, consistent with the spirit and meaning thereof, and also consent to accept the lease, so added to or altered, and to execute a counterpart thereof.

That the Governor General and Council be ordered to have the plan, to be annexed to the said lease, examined to see that it is correct, and if not, to have it corrected and made perfect.

### V(e)

This Indenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith etc. and in the year of our Lord 1785[5] \_\_\_\_\_, between the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies of the one part and Benjamin Lacam, of the town of Calcutta in the province

To be dated within 12 months from 7th October, 1785.

of Bengal, Merchant of the other part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the surrender of a certain *pottah* or *lease*, bearing date the 1st day of June which was in the year of our Lord 1776, made and granted to the said Benjamin Lacam by the Calcutta Committee of Revenue, for and on behalf of the said United Company, and sealed with the said Company's Persian seal of certain land, liberties and privileges therein and hereinafter mentioned, amongst other things therein contained, and also, for and in consideration of, the rents, covenants and agreements hereinafter reserved, mentioned and contained on the part and behalf of the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns to be paid, observed, performed and kept. The said United Company have demised, leased, set and to farm, let, and by these presents (as far as they lawfully may or can) do demise, lease, set to farm, let unto the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns. All that piece or parcel of jungle or rough land situate, lying and being at Channel Creek in the Sunderbunds in the said province of Bengal, being part or parcel of the said United Company's lands, commonly called the 24 Purgunnahs, containing by admeasurement 300 acres of land; about one half of which, said piece or parcel of land, lies on the south east side of Corrollea Creek in Barratulla River or Channel Creek, and the other half thereof on the north east side of the same creek. As the same is more particularly delineated and described in that part of the plan or map, hereunto annexed, stained green, with full and free liberty, power and authority to and for him the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns to clear the said ground and to make such erections and buildings thereon, as he shall think fit, for the purpose of establishing an harbour for the reception of ships, to be called by the name of New Harbour, with such docks, ways, wharfs, pier, heads, mooring places and other conveniences as shall be useful for the building and repairing of ships, and for their loading and unloading and laying in safety. together with such houses of habitation, warehouses and other buildings as he or they shall think fit; and also full and free liberty, power and authority to and for him the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns to do all and every such matters and things as he shall think fit for the improvement and convenience of the said harbour, and for the use of shipping resorting thereto, in that part of the said creek adjoining to the said land, and included within the red lines drawn upon the said plan, hereunto annexed, from a point marked (G) below Corrollea Creek, at the distance of a mile and a quarter, bearing from the flag staff south-west and by the south to the shore north of Corrollea Creek, at the distance of half a mile from the entrance of it; and by another line drawn from the point of the north west bank of Corrollea Creek, intersecting the former line to a point above Corrollea Creek marked (D), at the distance of two miles from the said creek, with liberty to appropriate the whole space upon Barratulla River or Channel Creek, lying between the said red lines and the shore. To the uses and purposes of the said harbour, but nevertheless saving and reserving to all and every persons whatsoever, the free use of the said creek and water, and of all and every other creeks and nullahs, near or beyond the same, for the passing and repassing of all and every boats and vessels, with liberty to remain their, [there], and to get *wood and water*,



in like manner, as the said places have been heretofore used by country boats and vessels. To have and to hold the said land with the appurt's and all and every the liberties, powers and authorities herein before mentioned unto the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns, from the 25th day of December now next ensuing, for and during and unto the full end and term of 1,000 years from thence next ensuing, and fully to be compleat and ended. Yielding and paying therefore yearly and every year, during the said term, unto the said United Company, their successors or assigns, the respective yearly rent hereinafter mentioned, (that is to say) for the first 10 years, of the said term, the yearly rent of one pepper corn only and for the residue of the said term the yearly rent or sum of 100 rupees, which said several yearly rents shall be respectively paid on the 25th day of December in every year, to the proper officer, of the said United Company, appointed to collect and receive the said United Company's rents, at his house or office at Calcutta, aforesaid or at such other place where he shall reside or be for the purpose of collecting and receiving rents, due and payable to the said United Company for, or in respect of the district of land called the 24 purgunnahs; and the same shall be paid free of and without any deduction, defalcation or abatement on any account or pretence whatsoever. And the said Benjamin Lacam for himself, his executors, administrators and assigns, doth covenant, promise and agree to and with the said United Company, their successors and assigns, by these presents, in manner and form, following (that is to say) that he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns shall and will, well and truly, pay or cause to be paid unto the said United Company, their successors or assigns, the several and respective yearly rents, herein before mentioned and reserved for the said premises, yearly and every year, at the time and place and in manner and form, hereinbefore mentioned, without making any deduction, defalcation or abatement on any account or pretence whatsoever. And also that, he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns shall and will, at his or their own proper costs and charges, within the space of 10 years, from the day of the date of these presents, make, construct and compleat, in and upon [some] proper and convenient part or portion of the land, hereby demised, mentioned or intended, so to be one

To be dated within 12 months from 7th October, 1785. dry dock at the least in all respects proper and sufficient for the reception, refitting and repairing of any

of His Majesty's ships of war of 74 guns, and of any of the ships belonging to or in the employ of the said United Company, and from and after the finishing and compleating the same shall and will, at all times, for and during the continuance of the term, hereby demised, at his and their own proper costs and charges, well and sufficiently repair, amend and keep the same and every of them in, by and withall, and all manner of needful and necessary repairs and amendments whatsoever, so that the sa[me] may at all times be in proper and sufficient condition for the rece[ption], refitting and repairing such ships as aforesaid, and shall not [nor], will, erect, or make or cause or permit to be erected and made any building or other work, whereby the said dock or docks shall or may be rendered unfit to receive, refit and repair such ships [as] aforesaid. And also, that he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators

and assigns shall and will, from time to time and at all times during the continuance of the said term (except [only] during such time as the dry dock or docks, to be made upon the said premises, shall be necessarily repairing) admit and receive into the dock or docks, to be made in or upon the said premises, within the said term of 10 years, or at any subsequent time or times as the same shall become vacant [or] empty; any of His Majesty's ships of war which can get into the said dock or docks, and all ships belonging to and in the employ of the said United Company, then and there to be refitted and repaired upon payment to the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns or to his or their servants, of such and the like rates and customs as at that time shall be paid, for entering and continuing in the said United Company's dock, at Bombay; and that at all times His Majesty's ships of war and the ships belonging to or in the employ of the said United Company shall, in all cases, be entitled to have and shall have a preference of any other ship or vessel whatsoever. And in order to prevent extravagant charges in the repairing and refitting of ships and vessels, in and upon the docks and ways, to be made upon the said demised premises the said Benjamin Lacam for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns doth hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said United Company, their successors and assigns, that he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns shall not nor will at any time ask, demand, require or take for any stores or materials to be used in the repairing or refitting any ship or vessel whatsoever, for which the said docks or ways shall be used, any payment or price exceeding 20 per cent over and beyond the ordinary market price or value, at that time, of the like stores or materials at the town of Calcutta in the said province of Bengal. And if the said Benjamin Lacam his executors, administrators or assigns shall refuse to repair and refit the said ships or vessels, and to supply such stores and materials as he shall be possessed of or shall require, and take any such payment price, exceeding 20£ per cent over and beyond such ordinary market price as aforesaid, then, and in such case, he or they shall and will pay to the said United Company and their successors or assigns, as and for damages, double the value of such extra sum, so to be paid to or received by him or them, and the sum of 10,000 rupees for every refusal to repair and re[fit] a ship; the said respective damages to be accounted for and paid by the said United Company to the party or parties aggrieved, after deducting the cost and charges of recovering the same, [provided] always nevertheless, and it is hereby agreed, by and between the said parties to these presents, that if the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns, at any time, [shall] not supply or be able to supply stores and materials for repairing and refitting of ships and vessels, in and upon the said docks and ways, of as good quality and as fit for the uses and purposes, for which they shall be wanted, to be used and applied as can or may, at that time, be got at the said town of Calcutta. [Then], and in such case as to such stores or materials as cannot or shall not be supplied by the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns, of such good quality as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the owners, masters and commanders of such ships and vessels; and they shall be at liberty to procure and use their own stores and

materials, in and about the repairing and refitting the said ships and vessels, in and upon the said docks and ways; and such stores and materials shall be used and employed accordingly, without making any payment or allowance in respect thereof, to the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns. And if the said Benjamin Lacam his executors, administrators or assigns shall not permit such ships, vessels to be repaired and refitted, in and upon the said docks and ways, and to procure and use their own stores and materials in default of his or their supplying the same, of such good quality as aforesaid, then, and in such case, he or they shall and will pay to the said United Company, as and for damages, the sum of 20 per cent, upon the computed value of such stores and materials as shall be wanted for such repairs and refitting as aforesaid, such damage to be accounted for and paid by the said United Company to the party or parties aggrieved, after deducting the costs and charges of recovering the same, provided also, and it is hereby further declared and agreed, by and between the said parties to these presents, that it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty and his successors, officers and servants, and to and for the said United Company and their successors, officers and servants and to and for the owners and captains of any Europe ship or ships, to be freighted to or employed by the said United Company to supply, buy or procure, as they shall think fit, all and every, the stores and materials to be used and employed by them in the repairing and refitting any such ships belonging to or employed by them as aforesaid, in any of the dry docks or upon the ways to be made upon the said premises, and shall not be obliged or compellab[le] to take such stores or materials from the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns or to make any payment or allowance to him or them in respect of using or procuring their own stores and materials. And in order to prevent the great trouble and expence which may arise to the parties by resorting to a court of law, upon disputes respecting [the] said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns refusing to repair and refit ships or to supply them with stores and materials, or respecting the goodness and quality of such stores and materials; it is hereby covenanted, concluded and agreed, by and between the parties to these presents, that when, and so often, as any dispute or question shall arise between the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns and any other person or per[sons] under the covenants, herein before contained, respecting his being liable to such damages as aforesaid, for requiring or taking payment for stores or materials of any price exceeding 20 per cent beyond the market price thereof at Calcutta, or for not permitting persons to use their own stores and materials in default of the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns supply the same of such good quality as hereinbefore is mentioned, or of his being liable to the said penalty of 10,000 rupees for refusing to repair and refit any ship or ships, all and every such disputes and questions shall be referred and enquired into and determined by the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal aforesaid, or by such other person or persons who, for the time being, shall have the supreme government and management of the said United Company's possessions and affairs in Bengal, whose determination thereon shall be final and conclusive to all the contending parties, and the said Govern-



or General and Council or such other person or persons having the supreme government as aforesaid shall be at liberty to award costs to either party in respect of such disputes, and in case they shall acquit and discharge the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns of any breach of the covenants aforesaid, he and they shall, from thence forth, stand acquitted and discharged of the complaint made against him accordingly, and if they shall find him or them guilty of any breach or breaches of the said covenants or either of them, he or they shall, pay the damages and penalties aforesaid, to be ascertained by the said Governor General and Council or such other person or persons, as aforesaid, having the supreme government at Bengal, within 7 days after their order or determination thereon shall be made. And in case any person or persons concerned or interested in such disputes or questions, as aforesaid, shall refuse, upon reasonable notice, to attend the said Governor General and Council or such other person or persons having the supreme government, as aforesaid, to make [out any complaint or answer or defend any complaint,] it shall be lawful for the said Governor General and Council or such other person or persons having the supreme government, as aforesaid, to make their order and determination ex parte, and the same shall be as binding and conclusive as if all parties had attended and been fully heard, and no suit or suits at law shall be brought respecting any of the matters aforesaid, until after such reference shall have been made, unless the said referees shall refuse or neglect to determine the matter in dispute, for the space of 2 months next, after notice thereof, and being required by either party to determine the same, and it is hereby agreed that, in case of any difference in opinion of the said Governor General and Council, or such other person or persons having the supreme government, [as] aforesaid, respecting any question or dispute referred to them, the same shall be determined by the majority of votes or by the casting vote of the presiding member, in like manner as all matters of government are to be determined by them, and such determination shall be as valid and binding as if they had all concurred therein.

And the said Benjamin Lacam for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, doth hereby further covenant, promise and agree to and with the said United Company, their successors and assigns, in manner and form following, (that is to say) that he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns shall not, nor will, at any time during the term hereby demised, land or bring, or cause, procure or suffer any stores or materials for building, repairing or fitting of ships or vessels, or any other goods or merchandizes whatsoever, liable to any [duties], to be landed or brought to any part of the said demised premises until the same shall have been first entered at the Custom House at Calcutta, and paid the duties due to Government, and been duly and legally imported into the said province of Bengal, nor shall or will ship or cause, procure or suffer any goods or merchandize whatsoever, subject to the payment of any duty to Government at Calcutta, to be shipped or exported from the said demised premises or any part thereof, unless such goods shall first be duly entered at the Custom House at Calcutta, and the duties thereon shall first be paid, and in case any thing shall happen to be done in breach of this covenant, the said



Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns shall pay damages to the said United Company or their successors as herein after is mentioned, to wit in respect of goods, liable to duty, landed or brought to the said demised premises, or shipped or exported from thence, at and after [thence], of double the amount of such duty, and also the sum of 5000 rupees, over and above such double duty, for and in respect of every such breach. And also, that he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns shall not, nor will erect any work or do any act which shall or may obstruct or hinder the free use of Channel Creek or other creeks or nullahs, near or adjoining thereto, by ships, vessels and boats, in the same manner as they have heretofore used the same. Nor shall or will demand or require to be paid any toll, harbour rate, imposition or payment whatsoever, in respect of the said ships, vessels and boats passing the said space of water herein before mentioned, to lye between the said red lines and the shore or other creeks and nullahs aforesaid, or in respect of their using the same as places of safety or for the getting wood and water, in the manner in which they have always passed and resorted thereto and used the same, unless such boats and vessels shall apply for, and in consequence such application shall receive any benefit in the use of the works which have been or shall be erected by the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns, in which ca[se] he or they shall receive such payment as shall have been previously settled and ascertained by the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal, or by such other person or persons who, for the time being, shall have the supreme government and management of the said United Company's possessions and affairs in Bengal. And for the purpose of protecting the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns in the free enjoyment of the works to be erected and made by him, both upon land and in the said space of water allotted for the said harbour, and to secure to him a reasonable payment from ships, vessels, and boats, for such benefit as they may receive from the said works, and also to secure the free use of the said creeks and nullahs to such ships, vessels and boats, in like manner as they have heretofore enjoyed the same, and to secure them from any exorbitant demands, rates or impositions, in respect or under pretence of any benefits derived to them from the said works, it is hereby mutually covenanted, declared and agreed, by and between the said parties to these presents, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor General and Council of Fort Wllliam in Bengal aforesaid, for the time being, or for such other person or persons to whom, for the time being, the supreme governing and management of the said United Company's possessions and affairs in Bengal shall be committed, to make and establish such orders, rules and regulations as they shall think fit, respecting the use to be made of the said creeks, nullahs, and waters, by ships, vessels and boats of all descriptions resorting thereto, so as on the one hand to protect the works and business [of the] said harbour from being obstructed, or the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns from being deprived of the benefit and advantage reason[able] to be expected to arise therefrom, and on the other hand to protect ships, vessels and boats from being hinde[red] and obstructed in their ancient and reasonable free use and enjoyment of the said waters, creeks, and nullahs; and also to settle and ascertain the prices and rates of payment to be made by ships,

vessels and boats for such benefit as they may receive upon their own requisition for the said works. And the same o[rders], rules and regulations, prices and rates to revoke [ ], alter and add to, from time to time, as shall be expedient, all which said orders, rules and regulations he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns, shall and will, well and truly, abide by, observe, and perform, according to the true inte[nt] and meaning thereof. And shall and will pay such forfeitures and penalties, as shall be stipulated, to be inflicted and paid for the breach or nonobservance thereof, in all cases wherein any penalty or forfeit[ure] shall be appointed, and shall and will, at all times, observe and pay due obedience to all such rules and regulations, orders and directions as shall or may, from time to time, be made and given, in and about or concerning the premises, by the said Governor General and Council or such other person or persons, as aforesaid, having the supreme government of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, who, it is hereby agreed, shall be at liberty, from time to time, to oversee and controul, and that they shall have full and compleat superintendence over the proceedings of all persons in and about the use and enjoyment of the said creeks, nullahs and waters. And the said Benjamin Lacam, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns doth further cov[enant], promise and agree to and with the said United Company, their successors and assigns by these presents, in ma[nner] and form following, that is to say, that he the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns shall not, nor will permit the said harbor [to be] resorted to or used by, or do any repairs or supply necessaries for any ships or vessels whatsoever, belonging [ing] to any European or American prince or state, or to the subject of any European or American prince or state, other than, and except the ships and vessels of our sovereign Lo[rd] King, and of the said United Company and other British subjects, without having previously obtained, in writing, the express license, consent, approbation and permission [of] the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal or such other person or persons who, for the t[ime] being, shall have the supreme governing and management of the said United Company's possessions and affairs in Bengal, either generally for ships or vessels belonging [to] subjects of any such state or specially for the ships or vessels belonging to any individual; and will not, after a prohibition received from the said Govern[or] and Council or such other person or persons, as aforesaid, admit such ships or vessels; or give them any aid or assistance whatsoever, nor shall, or will sell, assign, transfer, make over or part with these presents or the premis[es], liberties and privileges hereby granted, or any part thereof, or any share, estate or interest therein; or grant any under lease thereof, or of any part thereof, for all or any part of the said term, or by any way or means whatsoever give any int[erest] in or any power or controul over the same to any person or persons whatsoever, not being a subject or subjects of Great Britain. And in order that the said Company may, from time to time, know who are the owners and proprietors of the said harbour, docks and ways and other, the premises, hereby granted, the said Benjamin Lacam for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns doth further covenant, promise and agree to, and with the said United Company, that when and so often as any assignment, transfer of these presents and the

premises hereby [granted], or any part thereof shall be made to any person or persons whatsoever, such transfer or assignment shall be registered in the office of the Secretary to the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal, aforesaid. And such register shall be evidence from time to time, shew to whom these presents shall belong, and the persons whose names shall be so registered, shall be liable to all the covenants and agreements herein contained, on the part and behalf of the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns. And the said United Company for themselves, their successors and assigns, do hereby [covenant,] promise and agree to and with the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns that the [said] Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and [assigns], paying the rent and performing the covenants [and] agreements herein before reserved and contained, on their parts or behalfs to be paid, observed, performed, fulfilled and kept, shall and may have hold, [possess] and enjoy, to and for his and their own use [and] uses, all and every, the premises, liberties, powers and authorities herein beforementioned, and hereby granted without any lawful let or hindrance of, or by the said United Company, their successors or assigns or of or by any other person and persons claiming or to claim, by, from or under the United Company, provided always nevertheless. [And] these presents are upon this express condition that the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators, assigns shall not make and compleat such dock [or docks as] aforesaid, within the space of ten years, from the [day] [ ] the date of these presents. Or if the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns do [order] [or] permit the said harbor to be resorted to or used by, or do any repairs, or supply any necessaries for any ship or vessels whatsoever, belonging to any European or American prince or state, or to the subjects of any European or American prince or state, other than and except the ships and vessels of our sovereign the King, and if the said United Company [and] other British subjects, without having previously obtained in writing the express license, consent, approbation and permission of the Governor General and Council of Fort William in Bengal, or such other person or persons who, for the time being, shall have the supreme governing and management of the said United Company's possessions and affairs in Bengal, for that purpose or after such prohibition received as aforesaid—or if the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators or assigns do or shall sell, assign, transfer, make over or part with these presents or the premises, liberties and privileges hereby granted, or [any] part thereof, or any share, estate or interest therein, or do or shall grant any under lease thereof, for any part of the said term, or by any way or means whatsoever, give any interest in or any power or controul over the same to any person or persons whatsoever, not being subjects of Great Britain, then, and in any or either of the cases aforesaid, the term and estate hereby granted to the said Benjamin Lacam, his executors, administrators and assigns shall cease, determine and become absolutely void to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as if these presents had never been made. And it shall be lawful for the said United Company to enter into and take possession of the buildings and works upon the said land and premises, and to hold and keep the same, for their own use [and] benefit, these presents or any thing herein contain[ed] [to] the contrary thereof in any wise

notwithstanding. In witness whereof, to one part of these present ind[entures] remaining with the said Benjamin Lacam the Governor General and Council of the Presidency of Fort William, in Bengal, have caused the seal of the said United [Company] to be affixed, and to the other part thereof remain[ing] with the United Company the said Benjamin Lacam hath set his hand and seal, the day and year fir[st] above written.

Examined.





**NOTES**



# NOTES

## LETTERS FROM COURT

No. 1—1 January 1782.

1. **The late Act** (p. 1)—i.e., Act of 21 Geo. 3. Cap. 70 Sec. 27. passed in 1781. *The Statutes at Large from the Twentieth Year of the Reign of King George the Third to the Twenty-fifth Year of the Reign of King George the Third, inclusive.* Vol. XIV. (India Board), pp. 142-5.

2. **Mir Burkut Ulla and Gullum Muckdum** (p. 1)—Mir Barkatullah and Gulam Makdum were the *muftis* of Patna. They and the *qazi* Saadi were directed by the Patna Council to divide the property of Shahbaz Beg Khan, a Muslim adventurer at Patna, between his widow Nadira Begum and his nephew Bahadur Beg. The *qazi* and the *muftis* proposed that the inheritance should be divided into four shares, of which three should go to the nephew and one to the widow. This was accepted by the Patna Council. But soon after the division Nadira Begum instituted a suit in the Supreme Court against Bahadur Beg, the *qazi* and the two *muftis*, "for assault, battery, trespass and imprisonment", alleging that she had been expelled from the house in which she was living and treated with considerable indignity. She claimed 600,000 *sicca* rupees as damages. The accused were arrested by order of the Supreme Court, and fined 300,000 *sicca* rupees with 9,000 rupees costs. As they were unable to pay the heavy damages they were confined in the common goal at Calcutta.

This case came to be known as the Patna Cause. It was one of the causes of the quarrel between the Supreme Court and the Council, and it 'formed the second article of the impeachment against Impey.'

For a full account of the case read, Sir J. Fitz James Stephen, *The Story of Nuncomar and the Impeachment of Sir Elijah Impey*, Vol. II, Chap. XII; G. W. Forrest, *Selections from the State Papers of the Governors General of India*, Vol. I, pp. 203-208; *Original Consultation* (Home Department, Public) 23 August 1782, No. 2. *Public Miscellaneous Letters from Court*, 1788-9. pp. 112-26.



No. 2—25 January 1782.

1. **Letter from Ragobah** (p. 7)—In 1779 Raghunathrao (Ragobah) sent a deputation to the King of England over the heads of the Indian authorities, requesting strong military help to retrieve his fallen fortunes. The deputation consisted of his trusted Brahman agent, Hanumantrao (of Rajapur) and a Parsi assistant, Maniar. They returned after one year without achieving anything. G.S. Sardesai, *New History of the Marathas*, Vol. III, pp. 124-5.

2. **Agents or messengers** (p. 7)—This happens to be the first journey of the Hindus overseas during modern times. For an account of how Raghunathrao's agents fared in England see Burke's letter to him, dated the end of 1782, published in Sardesai *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 125-6, and 126 n.

3. **Mr. Bolts** (p. 7)—William Bolts, a Dutchman, was "an ambitious and discontented servant of the Honourable East India Company", who resigned the Company's service in 1766 and founded in 1775 the Austrian "Imperial Company of Trieste for the Commerce of Asia." It came to an end in 1785, "entirely through Bolts being too much carried away by the dashing speculative spirit characteristic of the intellectual Company promotor." Birdwood, *A Report on the Old Records of the India Office*, p. 32 n. William Bolts wrote the *Considerations on Indian Affairs* (3 Volumes), 1772-1775. See N. L. Hallward, *William Bolts*.

4. **The representation of Count Belgioioso** (p. 7)—Count Belgioioso, the Viennese Minister in London, addressed a strong representation to Lord Hillsborough, Secretary of State for the Northern Department, in November 1781 against the seizure and destruction of the Austrian ship *La Vienne* near Madras, and also against the treatment accorded by the Governor-General and Council to Lieutenant Colonel William Bolts and his expedition. Lord Hillsborough therefore asked the Directors for detailed information on the subject of these complaints in order to be able to give, without delay, as satisfactory an answer as possible to Count Belgioioso. N. L. Hallward, *op. cit.*, pp. 188-9.

5. **Mr. Nathaniel Bateman** (p. 8)—Served as Civil Paymaster, Collector of Chittagong, Chief of Chittagong factory and Superintendent of Import Warehouse. In 1784 he was appointed a member of the Board of Trade and became Foreman of the Grand Jury in 1790. *Index to the Press List of the Public Department Records, 1748-1800*.

6. **Military Fund** (p. 9)—It was opened by Lord Clive in 1766 for invalids in the Company's service and for the widows of such as may have lost their lives in it. He appropriated to it five lakhs of rupees, the legacy left to him by Mir Jafar. *Press List of Ancient Records obtained from India Office, 1760-1769*.

7. **Meer Saib mortally wounded** (p. 17)—Mir Sahib an able general of Haidar Ali was chosen to lead the cavalry against General Stuart in the battle of Porto Novo 1781. He was struck by a round shot from one of the English ships, and not only was he killed but his troops suffered severely from the naval guns. Innes, *History of the Bengal European Regiment*, p. 262.

8. **Colonel Pearse** (p. 17)—Colonel T. D. Pearse played a small but significant part in the annals of the 18th century. In 1770 he was stationed at Monghyr; and in 1773 at Fort William. In 1781 he commanded the detachment sent by Warren Hastings, from Bengal, for the help of General Sir Eyre Coote against Haidar Ali. Colonel Pearse's force covered one thousand miles and joined Sir Eyre Coote at Pulicat. Pearse's ingenuity consisted in eluding Tipu who had been sent by Haidar Ali to intercept him. Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, 1764-1787, pp. 326-7; Forrest, *The Administration of Warren Hastings*, 1772-1785, p. 246; Love, *Vestiges of Old Madras*, Vol. III, p. 208.

9. **The success of General Goddard** (p. 18)—General Goddard advanced on Bassein in October 1780, started operations in November and captured the town in early December. The fall of Bassein was a serious blow to Nana Phadnis. *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V. p. 269.

10. **Sir Elijah Impey** (p. 22)—Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court 1773-1782. Incurred a great deal of criticism for his part in the trial of Nandakumar. Was impeached by Parliament but acquitted. See Sir James Fitz James Stephen, *The Story of Nuncomar and the Impeachment of Sir Elijah Impey*, 2 Vols.

11. **Major Camac** (p. 34)—Major Jacob Camac commanded the 24th Bengal Infantry at Ramgarh in 1766. In 1771 he captured the fort of Palamau. In 1779 he served with Popham against Sindhia, whom he defeated at Durdah. Was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1781 and on the 16th February 1781 inflicted a crushing defeat on Sindhia at Sipri. This success against the Marathas as well as the victories of Colonel Goddard at Ahmedabad and Captain Popham at Gwalior ended the First Maratha War and helped the English to retrieve their prestige which at the beginning of the War had fallen very low. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*; Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, pp. 67, 375, 394; Forrest, *The Administration of Warren Hastings*, pp. 161-2.

12. **Chimnaje Boosla** (p. 34)—Chimnaji Bhonsle was the second son of Mudhoji Bhonsle, the Raja of Nagpur. In 1779 he was sent with an army to Cuttack for the purpose of invading Bengal, but Hastings won him over through diplomacy. By paying fifteen lakhs to Mudhoji Hastings succeeded in detaching the Nagpur Marathas from the Confederacy and turned them against Haider Ali and the Peshwa pre-

cisely at a time when they could have ruined Bengal. *Cambridge History of India* Vol. V, pp. 268-9.

13. **Captain Macgowan** (p. 35)—Captain John Macgowan was commissioned from the ranks. He was an ensign in 1766, Lieutenant in 1767 and Captain in 1771. In 1780 he was appointed to survey the Ganges and Kasimbazar rivers. In 1781 he commanded the 11th Sepoys as major, and served with Colonel Pearse in the Second Mysore War. Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1788 and Colonel in 1795. V. C. P. Hodson, *List of Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834*.

14. **Captain Popham** (p. 38)—In 1779 he was sent to help the Rana of Gohad against the Marathas. He captured the fort of Gwalior from Sindhia in 1780 and that of Bijaigarh from Raja Chait Singh in 1781. The Governor General and Council bestowed high praise on him while recommending him for the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1785. See *Letter to Court 17 January 1785*, paras. 33-5, pp. 526-7 of this volume. From 1791-2 he was with Cornwallis at the siege of Seringapatam. Was promoted to the rank of Major-General in 1795 and Lieutenant-General in 1802. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

**Enclosure** (25 January 1782 No. 2)

15. **Algerine Rovers** (p. 40)—The Algerine rovers or Turkish rovers, as they were also called, proved a danger to English ships as early as 1660, when Captain Millet built special ships in England, with three decks and carrying 30 guns each, designed to protect the Company's merchandize against these pirates. Birdwood, *A Report on the Old Records of the India Office*, pp. 47 (n), 78, 264.

16. **Illicit trade** (p. 44)—The illicit trade was conducted by private traders, who fitted out expeditions in violation of the Company's privileges. In Bengal any interloping ship was apparently allowed to trade by the Indian authorities on payment of Rs. 3,000 for permission to make sales and purchases. Bruce, *Annals of the Honourable East India Company*, Vol. III (1688-89 to 1707-8) p. 415; Hamilton, *The Trade Relations between England and India, 1600-1896*, pp. 47, 87.

**No. 6—12 July 1782.**

1. **Mr. Richard Joseph Sullivan** (p. 60)—He joined the Madras administration as a civil servant in 1768. In 1772 he became Sub-Secretary to the Military Department. He was appointed the Governor General's representative at the Nawab of Carnatic's Court in 1781, but was dismissed from that post by the orders of the Court of Directors in 1782. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 59, 60, 71, 86, 92, 316.

**No. 7—28 August 1782.**

1. **Colonel Muir** (p. 68)—Colonel Grainger Muir was a writer on the Bengal Establishment in 1752. Obtained an ensign's commission

in 1754. Served at the recapture of Calcutta in 1757 and at the reduction of Chandernagore. Led the advance guard in the battle of Plassey. Resigned in 1760. Served as lieutenant in North America during the Seven Years' War. In 1763 he recruited a company of one hundred and twenty five men for the East India Company. Was appointed a Captain in 1764, Lieutenant Colonel in 1772 and promoted Colonel in 1779. He was sent in 1781 from Bengal with reinforcements for Lieutenant Colonel Camac against Sindhia. The same year he succeeded Camac in the command of the Bengal force. He was responsible for the treaty of peace concluded with Sindhia on the 13th of October 1781 which ultimately led to peace with the whole Maratha State in the following year. In 1785 he returned to England. Colonel Muir's services were highly recommended by the Governor General and Council in their *Letter to Court of 17 January 1785*, Para 32, pp. 525-6 of this volume; Hodson, *List of Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758-1834*; Mill, *History of British India*, Vol. IV, p. 266.

2. **Division of the treasure** (p. 70)—Bijaigarh was fifty miles from Benares. It was a stronghold of Raja Chait Singh and was captured by Major Popham in 1781. Immense booty fell into the hands of the captors and was immediately appropriated by Popham's troops. This gave rise to a variety of claims from the other corps which had been engaged in the common service against Chait Singh and had shared in the dangers, fatigues and successes of the campaign.

The Governor-General reprimanded Popham for so improper and unauthorised a proceeding and ordered him to suspend any further division of the treasure until the pleasure of the Board should be known. *Home Public Consultations*, 17 December 1781, No. 1. For rights of the soldiers to a share in the prize money see Macpherson's account of *Soldiering in India*, pp. 212-13, and Forrest, *The Administration of Warren Hastings*, p. 58.

3. **Rajah Cheyte Sing** (p. 74)—For a full account of Raja Chait Singh's case see C. C. Davies *Warren Hastings and Oudh*; Forrest, *op. cit.*, pp. 152, 163-4, 190, 192-4, 197, 198, 201, 205-8, 223, 227; Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, for a contemporary account, pp. 402-4.

**No. 8—6 September 1782.**

1. **Our letter of yesterday's date** (p. 77)—This letter, dated 5 September 1782, is not available in Vol. XX, A, 1778-83 *Home Public Letters from Court* from which the above letter has been taken.

2. **The enclosed letter to our Presidency of Fort St. George** (p. 77)—This letter is also not available in the above volume.

**No. 11—15 January 1783.**

1. **Sir Thomas Rumbold** (p. 89)—Thomas Rumbold (1736-



1791) entered the civil service in 1752, was appointed Governor of Madras in succession to Lord Pigot in 1778. He left Madras for England, in 1780 on reasons of health. The Directors, displeased with the transactions relative to the Northern Circars conducted during Rumbold's regime, ordered his dismissal in a belated despatch of 11 January 1781. He was charged with oppression and corruption, but these charges were refuted. Rumbold sat in Parliament from 1781 till 1790, and died in 1791. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 141-9, 153-4.

2. **Peter Perring** (p. 89)—A civil servant at Vizagapatam, became member of the Fort St. George Council. He was dismissed along with Rumbold in 1781. Love, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 103, 117, 142, 148, 200 n(2).

**No. 20—27 March 1783.**

1. **Mr. Barwell** (p. 120)—Richard Barwell was a conspicuous figure in the administration of Hastings. A man of talents and administrative experience, he was, as a member of the Bengal Council from 1773 till 1779, closely associated with the many-sided activities of Warren Hastings. He took a leading part in the case against Nanda Kumar, and determined Radha Charan's prosecution for conspiracy. Forrest, *The Administration of Warren Hastings*, pp. 60, 115, 116, 117, 133, 148, 167, 178, 179; *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, pp. 189, 225-9. Also "The Correspondence of Richard Barwell", in *Bengal: Past and Present*, Vols. V, IX and XVIII.

**No. 27—28 January 1784.**

1. **Treaty with the Marathas** (p. 143)—The reference is to the Treaty of Salbai concluded between Mahadji Scindia and the British agent Anderson on 17 March 1782, but signed by the Peshwa and Nana Phadnis much later on 24 February 1783 when Haider Ali was dead. By this treaty the English ceded to the Peshwa Bassein and all other territories conquered by them during the war since the Treaty of Purandar, but retained Broach and the island of Salsette and were also allowed to enjoy the privileges of trade as before.

The Treaty was arraigned by both the Court of Directors and the Bombay Government as inadequate and humiliating. The Council of Bombay declared that had the negotiation been left to them, who best knew the state of the Maratha Government, a far more favourable treaty might have certainly been obtained. Mill, *History of British India*, Vol. IV, pp. 358-63. But considering the confused situation of the British, their treasury completely exhausted and their army engaged in a difficult conflict with Haider Ali "a safe and speedy peace" as the Directors themselves reiterated in their letters throughout the year 1781, was the only expedient. See *Public Letters from Court 1781* Vol. XXIII. The Treaty, however, marks a turning point for the British. It gave them "peace with the Marathas for twenty years", and thus left

them free to fight their other powerful enemies, Tipu and the French. For the terms of the Treaty of Salbai see Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, Vol. VII Bombay, the Peshwa etc. (1929 edition).

**No. 37—10 December 1784.**

1. **Major Brown** (p. 178)—Major James Browne was Collector of Jungleterry districts in 1773. Was sent by the Council in 1782 on an embassy to Shah Alam at Delhi. He was recalled in 1785. C. E. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

**No. 41—11 April 1785.**

1. **John Hollond** (p. 199)—John Hollond was a Madras civil servant. During Sir Thomas Rumbold's administration he was sent to Hyderabad as Resident. He was suspended from office in 1780, but reinstated by the Directors in 1781. He declined nomination as governor of Madras in 1785 but accepted the offer when renewed in 1789. Hollond administered the government of Madras for a year and then resigned. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 103, *n* (1), 146, 212, 227, 227, *n* (1), 321, 321 *n* (5), 402, 545 and 556, *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, pp. 281-2, 317 and 335.

**No. 45—21 September 1785.**

1. **George Forster** (p. 249)—An Orientalist in the Company's Civil Service. He undertook in 1784 a very enterprising journey from Calcutta to Jammu and from thence to England through Tartary and Russia. In 1798 he published an account of his travels entitled *Journey from Bengal to England through Northern India, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Persia and Russia in 1783-1784*. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 164, 348, 579.

## LETTERS TO COURT

**No. 1—9 February 1783.**

1. **Commodore Johnstone's fleet** (p. 290)—Commodore Johnstone who joined the navy at a very young age was appointed early in 1781 to command a small fleet to Cape of Good Hope and to convey the East India trade. When his fleet was lying in Santiago de Porto Praya he was attacked by a French Squadron commanded by Suffrein. Johnstone considering the neutrality of the Port a security was engaged in watering the ships. He had taken no measure for their defence. Yet, he was able to repel the attack and inflict a crushing blow on the enemy. After

this engagement the Indiamen, transports and the ships for the East Indies parted Company and Johnstone returned to England. H. W. Richmond, *The Navy in India 1763-1783*, pp. 142-52.

2. **Major John McPherson** (p. 293)—Born about 1742. Commanded the 89th Gordons. He died in 1784. On his activities and services in India see Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, pp. 357-407.

**No. 3—10 April 1782.**

1. **Letter dated 10 April 1782** (p. 299)—This letter does not bear any date but from the next letter its date appears to be 10th April 1782.

2. **Gopaul Doss** (p. 300)—Gopal Das Sahu was a famous banker of Benares. The banking house of Gopal Das had its branches at Calcutta, Murshidabad, Patna, Gaya, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jaipur, Nagpur, Surat, Bombay, Masulipatam, Madras, Tanda, Phulpur, Poona and Martha army agencies at Agra, Delhi, Ahmadabad and Baroda. The services rendered by Gopal Das were so highly appreciated that when he died the Governor General directed the British Resident at Benares to pay his brother, Bhawani Das, a visit of condolence. *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. VII, 1785-7 (Calcutta, 1940), P. xiv. Also Letter No. 1181 in *ibid*.

3. **Commodore Alm's Squadron** (p. 301)—This Squadron was sent to assist Hughes. It was delayed after its departure from the Cape. Captain Alm's, realising the urgency of joining Hughes with least delay, left the slower transports to follow him and taking the 98th regiment and General Medows on board his squadron, sailed for Bombay. Pausing no longer than was necessary for watering at Bombay he hastened round to Madras. He succeeded in joining Hughes six days before Admiral Hughes' first engagement. But for Alm's reinforcement the six British ships would have been crushed by the twelve of the enemy. H. W. Richmond, *The Navy in India 1763-1783*, p. 178.

4. **Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Hughes** (p. 301)—Naval Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies from 1773-1777. He took an active part in 1776 in the revolution at Madras against Lord Pigot's administration. In 1778 he became Rear Admiral, and in 1779 was again given the command in the East Indies. In the war against Haidar Ali he sank many of the enemy ships, and helped in the capture of Negapatam. In 1783 he encountered the French fleet under Suffrein five times but without any decisive result. Returned to England and did not again hold any command. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 95-6, 105 n (1), 114, 117, 170, 220, 224, 250, 250, n, 260, 268, 292, n (4).

5. **Brigadier General Giles Stibbert** (p. 304)—He enlisted himself in ranks under the patronage of Robert Clive. He took part in Battle of Plassey, Storm of Masulipatam, Battle of Gheria, Siege of Patna, Battle of Buxar and Capture of Chunar. By 1777 he had risen to the

rank of Brigadier General and was made the provisional Commander-in-Chief of Bengal, this post he held till 25 March 1779, and again from 27 April 1783 till 21 July 1785. He was officiating Commander-in-Chief of the Bengal forces from 6 October 1780 to 27 April 1783 during the absence of Sir Eyre Coote in Madras. Hodson, V.C.P. *List of the Officers of the Bengal Army 1758-1834*, pp. 194-5.

**No. 4—9 May 1782.**

1. **Sir Robert Chambers** (p. 310)—Justice Chambers joined the Calcutta Supreme Court as Second Judge in 1774. He was one of the judges in the famous trial of Nandakumar, 1775. In 1780 he became Chief Justice and President of the Chinsura Court of Justice and in 1791 Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. Busteed, *Echoes from Old Calcutta*, pp. 77, 81 n, 102-105.

2. **Major Anthony Polier** (p. 311)—Was Chief Engineer at Calcutta in 1762. Was promoted to the rank of Captain in the same year and of Major in 1765. In 1775 he resigned and joined the service of the Nawab Asaf-ud-daula of Oudh, as architect and engineer. Was again admitted into the Company's service in 1782 and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by Warren Hastings, with permission to reside at Lucknow. C. E. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

3. **By. rupees** (p. 311)—Bombay rupees.

**No. 5—15 July 1782.**

1. **The Madrassa** (p. 317)—The Madrassa at Calcutta was established under the patronage and orders of the Governor General in 1781. Its aim was "the instruction of students in the Mahommedan Law and such other sciences as are taught in Mahommedan schools."

2. **Lieutenant Colonel Owen** (p. 319)—Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Owen was aide-de-camp of Sir Eyre Coote when the latter arrived in India in December 1778. For the services rendered by Owen see Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 168 n (3), 248, 249-51. Forrest, *The Administration of Warren Hastings*, pp. 275-6.

**No. 6—7 December 1782.**

1. **Mr. Ritchie** (p. 324)—In the Indian Gazette (28 April 1782) Mr. Ritchie, who completed the survey of the Eastern Channel, is referred to as a Marine Surveyor under orders for Madras in 1782. He prepared instructions for pilots. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 269, 269 n (1).

2. **The prospect of famine** (p. 325)—Captain Innes Munro described the effects of famine thus:—



"The complicated scene of horror was such as to benumb every humanised faculty of the soul. In the black town so great was the mortality that the dead bodies were too numerous to be carried off by the utmost exertion, and the putrid exhalations which arose from those numberless emaciated victims of the famine, strewed in every quarter, of the settlement, became dangerous and distressing. Crows, vultures, and jackals, allured by the scent of death, flocked in crowds to the scene, and added greatly to its horror and devastation." Love, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 235 n(2).

3. **Spirituuous Liquors** (p. 328)—Although the Company encouraged, within reasonable limits, the sale of liquor among soldiers, yet its officers took stern measures to repress drunkenness. Some of the measures adopted were: the Dutch, who sold arrack to the soldiers, were asked to be restrained in their dealings; the men who sold drink illicitly within the Cantonment area, especially arrack of an unwholesome kind, were severally punished and tomtommed round the Camp Bazar. Orders were issued to arrest and hang the culprits if they further violated these injunctions, and the sale of liquor was regulated by chits or notes. Wholesome arrack, however, was regularly supplied to the soldiers. Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, pp. 32, 85-6, 137-8, 150.

4. (p. 335)—Paragraphs 70-77 are missing. What is given here is true to the text.

**No. 7—3 February 1783.**

1. **Major General Stuart** (p. 355)—After a long period of service outside India Colonel James Stuart came to Madras on 1 May 1776. He had a stormy career almost from the moment of his arrival. It was he who arrested Lord Pigot, Governor of Madras, and suspended Claud Russell, who was alleged to have supported Lord Pigot. He acted as Commander-in-Chief and Commandant of the Madras Garrison (1776-1777). For having taken a bribe from the Nawab of Arcot and for having conspired against Lord Pigot he was suspended for six months by the Court of Directors. He was court-martialled in 1777, but acquitted in 1781. He then served on the field under Sir Eyre Coote. Stuart succeeded Munro as Provincial Commander-in-Chief, and at the same time received from Coote the actual command of the field army. In June 1783, he was recalled from the field of operation for systematic disobedience to orders, and in September was dismissed and deported to England. In June 1786 he fought a duel with Lord Macartney, because of the latter's measures involving his dismissal, and severely wounded him. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III.

2. **The Lama of Thibet** (p. 356)—The credit of opening the road to Tibet goes to Warren Hastings. In May 1774, he sent the first British mission to Tibet under George Bogle. The Mission was an entirely commercial one. On 9 April 1779, Bogle was sent on his second mission to Tibet and Bhutan. Since the Lama was away on a visit to

Peking, Bogle, who had won the respect and confidence of the Lama, was asked to meet him there. But they both died and a third deputation was sent under Lieutenant Charles Turner in 1783. Among the presents which Turner gave the new child Lama was a small clock which the latter greatly admired. The parents of the young Lama gave presents to the Governor General and to Turner. Turner never had another opportunity of visiting Tibet; most of the valuable records of the Tibetan and Bhutan Mission are said to have been lost. Forrest, *The Administration of Warren Hastings*, pp. 301-6. See Captain Samuel Turner's *An Account of an Embassy to the Court of the Teshoo Lama in Tibet*.

No. 8—5 April 1783.

1. **Sir Richard Bickerton's fleet** (p. 362)—In 1781, when the French authorities decided to send large reinforcements to India, the Court gave orders to prepare troops and an escort of 6 ships and 2 frigates under the command of Commodore Sir Richard Bickerton to join Admiral Hughes. Though Bussy with the French fleet had sailed in November 1781, Bickerton did not leave England until February 1782. At Anjengo he learnt about the loss of Trincomali. On reaching Madras, when Bickerton did not find Hughes, he decided to sail back to Bombay where he joined him. They fought an indecisive action at Cuddalore against the French on 20 June 1783. Soon after the news about the preliminary peace treaty reached India, the hostilities with the French came to an end. In consequence Commodore Bickerton sailed back for England. Admiral H. W. Richmond, *The Navy in India 1763-1783*, pp. 305-6, 372-7.

2. **Seige of Lohar** (p. 366)—Lahār a large village situated 48 miles from Gwalior city. It was a Maratha stronghold in the 18th century. Captain Popham, the hero of Gwalior laid siege to the fortress in February 1780. It was carried by sheer pluck and determination as Capt. Popham's detachment which consisted of drafts from the Bengal regiments had no big guns. Having effected an imperfect breach, which the want of heavy cannon prevented him from completing. On the 21st April he decided to assault it. The attack was led by Lieutenants Hogan and Gardner, who were killed at the breach. The place was carried with a loss of 125 men. The success was unexpected. Mill, *History of India*, Vol. IV, p. 51; *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, Vol. I, pp. 255-6.

3. **The free merchants** (p. 388)—Free merchants were not in the Company's service, but were permitted to carry on trade on their own account, subject to the terms of a covenant into which they were required to enter. They enjoyed the Company's protection within the limits of its Charter but were debarred from the civil and military services of the Company. See *Court's General Letter to Bengal*, 26 March 1766. Every free merchant had to give a security of £2,000 for the proper performance of his covenant. Vide *Company's General Letter to the President and Council at Fort William*, dated 10 April

1771. Bolts, *Considerations on Indian Affairs*, London, 1772, Chapter X.

No. 11—23 October 1783.

1. **Famine in the Nabob's districts** (p. 433)—Bengal and Oudh seem to have suffered from famine since 1770. The terrible effects of the famine of 1783 in which one third of the population suffered, were felt here as late as 1789. See Macpherson, *Soldering in India*, p. 30; Smith, *Oxford History of India*, pp. 507-8.

No. 21—23 August 1784.

1. **Mutiny of the Cavalry in Carnatic** (p. 482)—In April 1784 Government resolved to form a regular establishment of cavalry by taking into their own service the four regiments belonging to the Nawab of Carnatic. The European officers, belonging to these regiments, who had no commission in the Company's service, were to be admitted into its service. But the officers thus admitted came in as junior of their grade. The cavalry was to become a separate corps to be commanded by a Major Commandant, and the officers of cavalry were only to be promoted in their own corps. A few days after the promulgation of this order, the whole corps of cavalry, stationed at Arnee, suddenly mutinied. On the same day a party of men belonging to the artillery and light infantry formerly attached to the cavalry division, and who had been sent to Arcot to be incorporated into the native artillery and infantry, made an attempt to carry off their guns, and to join the mutineers, but this was defeated. General Long was able to subdue the mutineers at Arnee. A *subadar* and a private who had been the most active in the mutiny were blown from a gun on the spot. The 1st, 2nd and 4th regiments were reduced but the 3rd, which had not taken much part in the mutiny, became the 1st regiment of native cavalry. W. J. Wilson, *History of the Madras Army*, Vol. II, pp. 149-54.

2. **Col. Pearse** (p. 482)—See Note 8 to *Letter from Court* of, 25 January 1782.

No. 23—10 December 1784.

1. **Sir Edward Vernon** (p. 508)—In 1778 war was declared between England and France. In the attack on Pondicherry Sir Hector Munro pushed on the siege from the mainland, while Sir Edward Vernon with his fleet, consisting of the *Ripon*, *Coventry*, *Seahorse*, *Cormorant* and two Company's ships, attacked the enemy at sea and drove off the French squadron of much superior strength. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 143, 169.

No. 25—28th December 1784.

1. **Letter dated 28 December 1784** (p. 515)—Duplicate copy of this letter is dated 24th December 1784. *Public General Letter to Court* 1784-5, Vol. XXXIII.

No. 28—17 January 1785.

1. **Capture of the fortress of Gwalior** (p. 526)—On 3 August 1780, Major Popham captured by surprise the strong fort of Gwalior. Its conquest, according to Lieutenant Colonel Allan Macpherson, was "the most surprising of any event upon record." Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, p. 393. William Hodges who was an eye-witness of the conquest, gives a graphic account of it in his *Travels in India*, pp. 136-40. (pp. 138-42 in the 1793 edition).

No. 29—28 January 1785.

1. **Sir John D'Oyly** (p. 529)—Sir John D'Oyly was Persian Translator to the Bengal Army in 1775 and subsequently to the Governor General and Council. From 1780 he was Resident at the Court and Collector of Government Customs at Murshidabad.

William Hodges, who met him at Murshidabad in 1781, wrote that "The liberality and attentions of this gentleman to every person travelling this road are well known, and in his house I may truly say, reigned the very spirit of old English hospitality."—Hodges, *Travels in India*, p. 43.

2. **David Anderson** (p. 529)—He was a member of the Amini Commission in Bengal. The report of this Commission is perhaps the most valuable contemporary document in the early revenue history of Bengal. Later he was employed by Warren Hastings on important negotiations with Mudhoji Bhonsle and his son Chimnaji. At the close of the first Maratha War, in January 1782, he was deputed to conclude peace treaty with Mahadji Sindhia. He remained as Political Resident with Sindhia until 1785. He was President of the Committee of Revenue and as such was examined as a witness at Hasting's trial. *Cambridge History of India* Vol. V, pp. 269-71, 425, 427; Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

3. **John Shore** (p. 529)—John Shore joined East India Company's Civil Service as a writer. He was a member of the Revenue Council, Calcutta from 1775-80. When the Committee of Revenue was constituted, Shore was one of its members but he opined that the Committee in spite of its best intentions was a tool in the hands of their *Diwan*. Later on Shore became Commissioner in Dacca and Bihar. In his capacity as a member of the Supreme Council he was appointed President of the Board of Revenue. He was opposed to the permanency of the revenue settlement. In October 1793 he was appointed Governor General of India. *Cambridge History of India* Vol. V, pp. 427-31; Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

4. **Nathaniel Brassey Halhed** (p. 529)—In 1776, he published *A Code of Gentoo Laws on ordinations of the Pandits, from a Persian Translation* and in 1778 a Bengali Grammar. After his return to



England he became M.P. for Lymington 1790-5. In 1809 he was appointed to a post in the East India House. He wrote *A Narrative of the Events in Bombay and Bengal relative to the Mahratta Empire*. Buckland *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

**No. 32—22 February 1785.**

1. **John Macpherson Esqr.** (p. 539)—Joined the Madras Civil Service as a writer in 1770. Became the Mayor of Madras in 1773. In 1776, he was charged with writing an anonymous letter on behalf of Nawab Walajah and dismissed by the Governor, Lord Pigot. He was next alleged to have taken Rs. 1,00,000 as bribe from Walajah. Macpherson went home, appealed to the Directors, and had himself reinstated. He returned to India in 1781 and became a member of the Calcutta Council. After the departure of Warren Hastings he acted as Governor General for one year 1785-6 till the arrival of Cornwallis. Created a Baronet in 1786. Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III; Macpherson, *Soldiering in India*, pp. 7-8, 8 n(1), 9, 332, 333, 336-41, 354-5.

2. **Ghyretty** (p. 542)—Ghyretty or Ghyrattah, known as the French Gardens, South of Chandernagar. Hodges wrote of it in 1781, as "being 20 miles from Calcutta, a very fine seat." Hill, *Bengal in 1756-7*, Vol. III, p. 447.

3. **Mr. John Bristow** (p. 543)—Resident at Cuttack from 1757-8. In 1774 he succeeded Nathaniel Middleton as Resident at Lucknow. Though supported by the majority in Council he was recalled in 1783 through Hasting's efforts and replaced by Middleton. Bristow seems to have interfered in the household affairs of the Nawab of Oudh. Forrest, *Administration of Warren Hastings*, pp. 221, 213, 290-4; Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*; *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, pp. 301, 305-6.

**No. 39—1 August 1785.**

1. **Doctor Koenig** (p. 576)—Dr. Johann Gerhardt Koenig came to India from Copenhagen in 1775. Was employed as a Botanist in the Nawab of Arcot's service in 1778. He applied for the post of the Honourable Company's Natural Historian and was appointed on a monthly allowance of 40 *Pagodas* only. In 1780, on his return from a voyage to Malacca he published a report on Botany, Mineralogy and Tin Ore. On his death in 1785, his manuscripts and herbarium were forwarded to Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, as a legacy.—Love, *Vestiges*, Vol. III, pp. 178, 178 n (3), 332-3.

**No. 41—25 October 1785.**

1. **Captain Thomas Forrest** (p. 583)—Captain Thomas Forrest, a navigator, entered the Company's service after 1748. He made fifteen voyages from Hindustan to the East, and four from England to India. He formed a settlement at Balambangan in 1770. From 1774-6 he

explored in New Guinea, the Sulu Archipelago, the Moluccas, etc. Was employed by Warren Hastings in 1782 to gain intelligence of the French fleet which had escaped from the English ships and which he discovered at Achin. He made two more voyages, one from Bengal to Quedah 1783, and the other from Calcutta to the Mergui Archipelago, 1790, discovering the Forrest Strait. Besides the accounts of his voyages, he wrote a *Treatise on the Monsoons in East India*, 1782; Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*.

No. 42—31 December 1785.

1. **The Ayeen Akberry** (p. 605)—The translations of the Ain-i-Akbari by Gladwin and of the Shahnama by Champion (*see* letter *ibid*, Paragraph 40), during Warren Hasting's administration, are a proof of the encouragement which the latter gave to the cause of Oriental learning. See also *Letter to Court*, 15 July 1782, paragraph 20.



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xxxiii	42	Carnac	Camac
xl	14	Mc Furlane	McFarlane
39	41-2	Tho. Woodhouse	Jn. Woodhouse
47	38	J. Baring	F. Baring
55	25	do	to
60	33	Vender	Vendue
81	1	1872	1782
101	1	25 January	23 January
131	16	St. Helens	<i>St. Helens</i> [sic]
306	16-7	John Lamb, [...] Morris	John Lamb Morris
359	22	4th	9th
396	19	streights	Streights
410	8	fleet <sup>1</sup>	fleet
433	37	districts <sup>2</sup>	districts <sup>1</sup>
436	16	Cummings <sup>3</sup>	Cummings
454	20	Middleton <sup>1</sup>	Middleton
454	20	Middleton <sup>2</sup>	Middleton
454	21	Markham <sup>3</sup>	Markham
454	36	Balfour <sup>4</sup>	Balfour
454	37	Kirkpatrick <sup>5</sup>	Kirkpatrick
479	4	unjustifd	unjustified
479	9	Rhio's	Riou's
480	37	and	and
490	10	1873	1783
529	1	17 January	28 January
602	39	Swalllow	Swallow
606	2	Gladwins	Gladwin's





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